Hafa Adai!

‘Lack of K9 program makes Rota vulnerable to drugs’ » PAGE 3

OAG clears Dr. Claassens, Rota DPS director of wrongdoings. » PAGE 6

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI’S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 46

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY MARCH 7, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

CHCC gets another extension from CMS

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Compliance verification until October 2016

Another extension to the hospital’s provider agreement was given to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. after the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services did not again make its awaited visit since last year.

Last November, CMS granted an extension that was supposed to expire last Feb. 29.

“Without a revisit before the end of February, as expected, an extension is granted,” CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said.

CMS has long identified non-compliance with seven hospital Conditions of Participation (CoPs) based on the findings of a Sept. 12, 2014 Medicare follow-up survey

See CHCC on Page 4

Sablan

Kilili continues push for National Guard unit in Congress

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As members of the U.S House Armed Service committee craft a Defense budget for 2017, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) submitted testimony last week asking that the budget authorize a National Guard unit in the CNMI and provide language the would require the Department of Defense to produce a report on the unit’s its implementation and funding needs.

Sablan, in his March 1 testimony, pointed to the National Guard Bureau report last August that found a unit feasible in the NMI. The study was mandated

See KILILI on Page 4

PAL execs meet with Torres, Hocog

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Top representatives of Philippine Airlines, which will soon be flying direct and non-stop between Manila and Saipan, met with the CNMI government’s top officials to discuss their request of assistance, among others.

PAL’s commercial group senior vice president David Lim and its code share partner, PAL Express’ president Bonifacio Sam, made a courtesy visit to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lieutenant Gov. Victor Hocog last Friday.

House Speaker Rep. Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) and House tourism committee chair Rep. Joseph Guerrero (R-Saipan) were also present.

The airline requested the Governor’s Office to help them push for the inclusion of Filipinos in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service visa waiver program or be granted some

See PAL on Page 4

» Requests for easier process for Philippine travelers to come to Saipan

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Philippine Airlines and PAL Express officials met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog to discuss their upcoming operations as well as a request to push for easier processing of Filipino tourists to come to the CNMI.

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance will announce the Green Award winners when they hold the annual Green Gala on May 27.

» PAGE 7

NATION

In a split decision, Ted Cruz and Donald Trump each captured two victories in Saturday’s four-state round of voting.

» PAGE 16

FOCUS

From a hijacking to an alien abduction, countless theories have arisen about the fate of the Malaysian airliner that disappeared nearly two years ago.

» PAGE 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

CLUB C
CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR CASINO AND ENTERTAINMENT PARADISE IN SAIPAN

CLUB C BONUSES
10th February to 17th April 2016
Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
8:00pm to 10:30pm
Rewards Totaling $10,810.00
An evening providing great food, drinks, entertainment and multiple rewards for Club C Members
Conditions apply.

MONDAY It's Happy Hour Time!
Corona $2.50 per bottle

Club C's Private Room is now accepting small group (max. 30) for Private Parties.
For reservation and inquiry, call 234-0088 ext. 110

OPEN DAILY: 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m. | 234-0088 | www.clubcsaipan.com
Must be 18 to enter and 21 to consume alcohol | Designated Smoking Game Area
Located at the Lobby of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
www.facebook/clubcsaipan
WiFi

Local

Man who just posted bail for domestic violence arrested again for 'ice'

A man who was arrested for domestic violence and was just released last Tuesday upon posting bail, was apprehended again two days later after police allegedly seized methamphetamine or "ice," marijuana, and several ammunitions at his residence in San Vicente.

» Marijuana, ammunition also involved

Anthony Joseph Sakisat Camacho, 39, was taken to Superior Court on Friday for bail hearing on charges of two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance, and one count of manufacture, sale, or possession of a firearm and dangerous devices.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio granted acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds' motion to increase the $10,000 cash bail previously imposed to $25,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on March 10 at 9am. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Camacho.

According to Police Detective Peter A. Aldan, seized from the defendant's studio-type residence were five clear glass pipes containing crystallized substance and four half smoked joints of marijuana that were tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine and marijuana respectively.

In his report, Aldan also disclosed that found in the house were four .38 special unexpended ammunition rounds, four .22 X-Super unexpended ammunition rounds, and two WWC 92.9mm full metal jacket unexpended ammunition rounds.

Last Feb. 29, Camacho was arrested for allegedly beating

See MAN on Page 4

LEGEND
REALTY

Exclusive Real Estate Agent for
Best Sunshine International
and Representing Multiple Investors
throughout Asia

SEARCHING FOR:
Hillside property or
View property or
Beach front property or
Beach Road property or
Rural property

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 202
670-484-5821
legendrealtycnmi@gmail.com

INFORMATION REQUIRED:
Map location
Total Area
Building area (if with existing building)
Title information
Asking price

KAGMAN
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
Call 256-KCHC (5242) to schedule your appointment today!
The Kagman Community Health Center provides a variety of health care services for you and your family. With our team of providers and support staff, you can assure the KCHC team will take care of your health needs!
OUR SERVICES
All Primary Care
Immunizations
Well Child Services
Women's Care
Prenatal Care
HIV/STD Testing
Family Planning
Outreach and Eligibility Services
Case Management
OUR PROVIDERS
Daniel C Lamar, MD,
Medical Director
Jacob Winegardner,
Physician Assistant
Bertha Camacho,
Nurse Practitioner
CONTACT US:
256-KCHC (5242) or 256-5243 • www.kagmanchc.org
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday-Tuesday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Thursday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Every other Saturday: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
KCHC accepts Medicaid and Medicare, AETNA, StayWell, NetCare, and Calvo's Insurance.
A sliding fee discount is available for those without medical insurance. KCHC serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. The KCHC is open to everyone, not just Kagman residents.

‘Lack of K9 program makes Rota vulnerable to drugs’

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and CNMI Division of Customs director Jose Mafnas discussed the absence of a canine and certified handler to inspect baggage at the Rota ports, in letters between the two officials in recent weeks.

Manglona, in a Feb. 22, 2016, letter, said Rota’s K9 program has not been operation since 2012, after its only drug canine was transferred to Saipan, and called current manual inspections “time-consuming” and making “our borders more vulnerable to illegal drug importations when detection dogs are not being used.”

Manglona

Sniffer dogs, Manglona said, were not only used at the Rota airport but also at its two seaport facilities. “We all understand that our government is in a tight financial situation. However…this worsening drug crisis in all our islands must be given top priority if we are to successfully combat the threat, trafficking, and use of illegal drugs.”

In his response on Friday, Mafnas said the detector dog in question was recalled to Saipan after it had failed its annual evaluation.

“The decision was made to protect the detector dog from further regression,” Mafnas said, citing information he received from Captain Jesse Atalig, Custom’s Drug Detector Dog Training Senior instructor.

“Accordingly, the handler was not re-certified due to the non-pass evaluation,” Mafnas said.

Manglona, in his letter, also said none of Rota’s Customs officers are able to carry firearms because of a lack of certification and asked for information to get these officers trained and certified.

“This is alarming as these officers are at the front-line at our ports of entry, and some flights coming in from Guam do not have to clear Transportation Security Administration screening,” Manglona said.

On this issue, Mafnas said, “the only delay is the availability of a firearm instructor to travel to Rota to conduct the required 40-hour “Firearm Safety Course” and to certify and re-certify the officers.

“I have recently looked into this matter,” Mafnas said. “I have contacted CPA Ports Police firearm instructor Captain Melvin Manahan about conducting firearm course in Rota…Manahane informed me that he is currently waiting for CPA’s new firearms to shipment to arrive. Upon arrival, he will bring the necessary gear to Rota to conduct the training.”

Mafnas also said there are three Rota Customs officers participating in a current basic training program that started on Feb. 29 and will last six weeks, adding that he is confident these three officers will be certified to carry firearms at the end of the training.

Federal mining law to be enforced in CNMI starting October

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mine and Safety Health Administration under the U.S. Department of Labor will start enforcing federal mining laws in the CNMI this October.

Following their first ever visit last May, representatives from U.S. DOL-MSHA Western District made another trip to the islands last week to conduct meetings to inform and educate those in the mining industry regarding the federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

Last Friday, they held an informational meeting with companies engaging in the removal or dredging of rocks, sand (aggregate), or other minerals (including shells) from the earth, or milling such materials (including crushing, sizing, and/or similar milling processes, which are considered mining and fall under the

See FEDERAL on Page 4

Attention Gov’t. Retirees!

- New Dental Plan Available via Allotment
- Provider: Paradise Dental Center. Brand New, State of the Art General & Cosmetic Dental Clinic
- Low Cost: $5.00, $6.00 or $7.00 per allotment
- Denture/Partial Grand Opening Promotion: $550 per Denture/ $725 per partial.

Award-winning dentist
Kind and Gentle
Dr. Nelson Krum

Paradise Dental Center
Middle Rd., Gualo Rai
234-4040
Stop by & pick up your enrollment packet!

JAPAN USED TIRES HAVE ARRIVED!
90% NEW
Lowest Price on Island!
ALSO AVAILABLE:
RIMS 13” to 20”
SUNSTAR TIRE SHOP
Call 285-5585
or 256-8808

PHI Pharmacy
END OF INVENTORY SALE
Diabetes Shoppe® Your Partner In Diabetes Care
Good Neighbor Pharmacy®
March 7-31, 2016 at both locations!
25% OFF All OTC Items
35% OFF Supplements & Sports Nutritional Products
Hospital Supplies • Diabetes Products
The only pharmacy on Saipan OPEN everyday of the year including holidays to meet all your healthcare needs
Two Convenient Locations: Navy Hill (CHC) Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 • Fax (670) 323-5011 • Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat & Sun:8am-4pm
Dandan (Joeten) Tel. (670) 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180 • Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat: 8am-4pm
Visit us on www.facebook.com/phipharmacy • PHI Pharmacy…the pharmacy you can trust!

MIGHTY MONEY MONTHS

Now here’s a mighty opportunity.

PayAnyDay® Personal Loan
4.99% APR
Fixed for 1 Year
- Consolidate bills
- Pay for home improvements
- Make major purchases
- Personal FirstLine Lock also available

Offer includes our custom tote bag.

First Hawaiian Bank®
Member FDIC

FHB.COM/MIGHTYMONEY
235-3090 (Gualo Rai) or 234-6559 (Oleai)

The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 4.99% will apply to new, approved personal loan applications received 3/1/16 to 4/30/16 with a principal amount of $10,050.00 and a term of 12 months. Loans with other principal amounts ($2,500 minimum loan amount) and terms are available, but the promotional APR may differ. The interest rate will be 0.25 percentage point lower if you have a personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 1 or 2 and 0.35 percentage point lower if you have personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 3. A one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00 applies to all loans under this promotion and will be added to the principal balance. For a 12-month loan of $10,050 at 4.99% APR, you will have 12 monthly payments of $856.05, which includes principal and interest. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer does not apply to business or real estate loans. Also, the proceeds of the loan cannot be used to pay off any existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit.
TOTE BAG: Receive a custom tote bag when you apply for a personal loan with First Hawaiian Bank. Limit one (1) bag per customer per eligible offer. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires April 30, 2016 or when supplies are exhausted.

Hofscneider: Key concerns of Tinian conveyed to visiting CODEL

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Jude U. Hofscneider (R-Tinian) says the Tinian leadership was able to convey the many issues their island faces amid planned U.S. military activity during a meeting with visiting members from the U.S. Armed Service subcommittee on Readiness during a visit last month.

Hofschneider said Thursday he personally highlighted the Tinian breakwater during their meeting with Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) and Congressman Rob Wittman (R-VA 1st District).

"Everybody knows the breakwater on Tinian is in dire need and is in a state of disarray, so we are in need of funding to repair those," Hofschneider said. "I highlighted that because that is the biggest concern right now other than the other issues."

Hofschneider said the delegation did not commit to anything, however it did recognized the "gravity" of their concerns. "We also mentioned that we were working hard, with the many challenges that we have, to make Tinian a destination of choice for our tourism resort industry" like the realization of direct flights to Tinian to supports its casino industry.

"That's a big thing for us. We just approved a mega resort on Tinian. One of the biggest challenges of the casino industry is the direct flights" to the island, Hofschneider said.

"We also pointed out that the ports along with the leadership have been working hand and glove to finish up the departure, arrival terminals of the airport."

When asked, Hofschneider felt the congressmen "absolutely" recognized their concerns.

"It was very fruitful. We all appreciate the fact that [Wittman] did come down and physically saw the situation that we have. We look forward to his return trip because it looks he is going to probably make another go around."

Among others, the Department of Defense wants to house large scale firing ranges complexes on Tinian and have laid out plans to use the Tinian airport as part of this training. Right now, the small arms ranges approved in an earlier Marianas-wide project have been deferred till outcome of the current planned project on Tinian, which is currently undergoing a second round of environmental review.

PAL

From Page 1

kind of parole.

"We are actually contemplating requesting your office to help us. Just like Russians, Chinese, they are given some visa waiver and we are trying to move toward that direction. Of course with your help, we'd like to pursue that," Lim said.

"We are here to request your office if you can help us," Sam said.

Currently, Filipinos who would like to travel to the CNMI have to secure a tourist visa from a U.S. Embassy. This would take weeks to months processing depending on the number of applicants in the embassy and would cost $160 for application fee, whether the visa is granted or not.

Lim added if some kind of program will be in place, this will increase traffic between Saipan and Manila especially as Filipinos now go out of the country for travel instead of for work.

"More Filipinos are going out of the Philippines as far as Europe, Iceland, as tourists and no longer contract workers. The landscape of the travelers in the Philippine is really good. It's now becoming more on leisure travel. If we have this, this will be a very good factor to improve the operations," Lim said.

"If we have enough traffic, we can have more flights," Sam added.

PAL submitted a letter to the governor to formalize their request.

Torres said he will definitely look into the request.

"We need to officially write a letter to Homeland Security, Immigration, ask them if we can allow Philippine travelers to come to Saipan either visa-waiver or parole, some sort of easier process for them to come," Torres said.

Connecting CNMI

Lim and Sam said PAL's goal is to increase flights from the current twice a week plan, and to "connect Saipan to the rest of the world."

"It's true Manila could be an excellent opportunity for the CNMI to be a hub and connect us even to the south side, to Fiji, to Australia," Torres agreed.

Asked by Torres if PAL is part of an alliance, Sam said not yet but they are already talking and "choosing the right alliance" for the airlines.

Currently, however, PAL has a number of international code share partners such as Qatar Airways, Malaysia Airlines, Shaman Airlines, Etihad Airways, Turkish Airways, and All Nippon Airways.

"We're expanding, as some people would say, too fast, in terms of network expansion," Sam said.

Last year, PAL added five new routes including New York, Port Moresby, and Auckland. This year, PAL is expanding to seven new routes. They are also planning to buy six more long-haul aircrafts.

Torres commended the future contribution of PAL's service to the CNMI's tourism industry as well as medical referral needs.

"Just having the direct flight, the services that you have, it helps the government as well as our medical referral patients," Torres said.

Torres mentioned that they are also contemplating of opening a Marianas Visitors Authority and medical referral offices in the Philippines.

"We are looking into that. We have a medical referral program, currently we have a private entity who deals with the transportation. This is a great opportunity for us to work with Philippine Airlines to see what is the cost analysis for us to have an official MVA office in the Philippines as well as combining that with the Medical Referral Program to better serve our constituents," Torres said.

With its inaugural flight on June 15, PAL will be offering twice weekly full-service flights departing Manila every Wednesday and Sunday at 9:20pm and arrives on Saipan at 3:35am local time the following day using Airbus A-320. Flights will depart Saipan every Thursday and Monday at 4:35am local time and arrive in Manila at 6:45am.

KILILI

From Page 1

in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Sablan said establishing a National Guard in the NMI would support the military's goal of "rebalance" to Asia, increasing U.S. military presence in the "first line of U.S. soil in the Western Pacific."

Sablan said the National Guard unit would also give the NMI governor additional capacity to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies.

"Ours is one of only two jurisdictions nationwide that does not have its own National Guard," Sablan said, "a deficient sorely apparent in August of last year, when Typhoon Soudelor caused widespread damage and led the President to declare a major disaster in the islands."

Sablan added the "groundwork" for establishing a National Guard unit was already in place at the local level, pointing to a 2002 public law to authorize such.

"What we need now is federal action," Sablan said.

Sablan said, H.R. 3649, his bill to authorize National Guard units in the NMI would not require any funding nor impose any new requirements on the National Guard Bureau or the Department of Defense. It would simply include the Northern Marianas Island in the definitions sections of current law of what constitutes the Natioanl Guard, he said

On his second request—to have the DoD produce a report on how it will implement this National Guard unit—Sablan called this "proper next step" to the 2015 report, which found a guard unit in the NMI feasible.

Sablan believes the Defense secretary should report to the Armed Services committee its implementation plan, a report that should include details on force structure allocation, recruiting, and funding requirements.

This would enable the committee to "better understand how the Department would stand up a new National Guard unit, and how Congress could help," Sablan added.

Sablan closed his testimony by thanking the committee for its "keen eye" on the expansion of military activity in the NMI and for working with him as these plans develop.

"The military buildup and presence in the Marianas region will have long-term consequences for the people I represent," Sablan said, "and I appreciate the partnership of this committee in managing these developments in the best interest of my constituents and of the national security needs of our nation."

CHCC

From Page 1

In a letter dated Feb. 17, 2016, Rufus Arther, manager of Non- Long Term Care Survey, Certification and Enforcement Branch of CMS Western Division of Survey and Certification, informed Muna that they are extending the prospective date for termination of the hospital's Medicare provider agreement to Oct. 31, 2016.

"Due to the extent of the deficiencies, the complexity of making fundamental, systemic changes, and in recognition as well of the importance of maintaining access to hospital services for CNMI's residents, CMS has decided to allow CHC additional time to demonstrate the capacity and commitment to achieve and sustain compliance with all Medicare hospital CoPs," Arther said.

"Please bear in mind that although CMS will continue to consult with CHC concerning compliance matters, ultimately it is CHC's responsibility to ensure that the facility complies with Medicare requirements," he added.

The letter states that if compliance cannot be verified prior to Oct. 31, 2016, CMS "will proceed with the termination action."

Muna said they are grateful for the extension.

"We are grateful to CMS for granting us this extension. Since CHC submitted the plans of correction to CMS, it is expected that CMS return to validate those plans. We are humbled by the trust to give us more time to collect data and continue to work on improving our hospital services. We will continue to stay on the right course to meet all CMS standards," Muna said.

This is CHCC's fourth extension from CMS since their resurvey last September 2014. Prior to that, several extensions to the hospital's provider agreement have also been given.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that in their survey results released a year ago, CMS cited CHCC for its governing body, which CMS found did not meet conditions on medical staff appointments, and the medical staff's accountability. It was also cited for patient rights as CMS found that it did not meet conditions on personal privacy, care in a safe setting, and its restraint or seclusion.

The hospital was also cited for medical staff when CMS found that it did not meet conditions on periodic appraisals, credentialing, and its bylaws. For the nursing services, CMS found that it did not meet conditions on registered nurse supervision of nursing services. Medical records also did not meet the conditions for its form and retention and security.

Other areas cited were verbal orders authenticated based on law, delivery of medical prescriptions, directory of dietary services, physical environment, emergency gas and water; facilities, supplies, equipment, and maintenance; ventilation, light, and temperature controls; infection control, discharge planning, and out-patient post anesthesia evaluation.

MAN

From Page 2

up his girlfriend at knifepoint at his residence.

The following day, Tuesday, the defendant waived preliminary hearing and was released to his mother who served as third-party custodian, upon posting $1,000 cash.

Police also learned that an outstanding bench warrant was issued against Camacho on Dec. 16, 2015, for failing to appear at a review hearing on his previous criminal case.

Detective Aldan said police executed a search warrant issued by Judge Kenneth L. Govendo last Wednesday at Camacho's residence, where they found the "ice," marijuana, and ammunition. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FEDERAL

From Page 3

jurisdiction of the U.S. DOL-MSHA to begin preparing the mining industry in the CNMI.

"We're here to educate the mine operators, the contractors, and some people working in the operations about the Mine Act, about our jurisdiction, why we're here, what are we going to be doing because we don't want to come in here and start enforcement because nobody's ready," U.S. DOL-MSHA Western District manager Wyatt Andrews said.

Wyatt said their visit last May confirmed that there are mining activities in the CNMI.

"We think there's at least probably 10 or so [just on Saipan]," Andrews said, adding that there are one or two on Tinian which they also visited. They have yet to visit Rota.

Of the considered mining activities, Andrews speculates that no one is in full compliance to date.

"As far as full compliance, it's hard to say but I'm guessing nobody is in full compliance," Andrews said.

"There are a couple of companies that are pretty well established like Hawaiian Rock Products, those places like that are probably further along unlike some of the others because they are exposed, they have operations in Hawaii, where we inspect, and in Guam," he added.

Andrews said safety concerns on mobile equipment, seat belts, high wall safety, back up alarms are just some of the things that are of priority.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Company allowed to present evidence for restitution vs Melvin Ada

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted the request of a Missouri-based company that had supplied dialysis and consumables and equipment to the Commonwealth Health Center to appear and be heard regarding its claim for restitution from Melvin G. Ada.

Ada is a former Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. employee who was slapped with 12.7 years in prison for stealing over $1.7 million from CHCC that was intended for the Missouri company Midwest Medical Supply Co. LLLC.

For "good cause having been shown" and there being no objection from the parties, Manglona granted Midwest Medical Supply's request.

Manglona ordered that MMS may appear through counsel at the March 11, 2016, restitution hearing and present testimony by video conferencing related solely to the issue of restitution for the company.

MMS counsel Richard W. Pierce said in this perhaps unusual case, the U.S. government opposes restitution for MMS, while the U.S. Probation Office supports it.

Both the U.S. government and Ada are not opposing MMS' request to be heard.

Ada was previously assigned as a medical supply specialist at CHC. His wife, Leyda, used to be a sales representative for MMS.

The court has granted the U.S. government's motion for money judgment in the amount of $1.8 million, representing the total gross proceeds Ada obtained as a result of his criminal conduct. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

Marianas Eye Institute proudly welcome renowned eye surgeon, Dr. Dennis Williams, who has moved to Saipan to serve you and your families alongside Dr. Robertson. The tradition of excellence continues!

- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

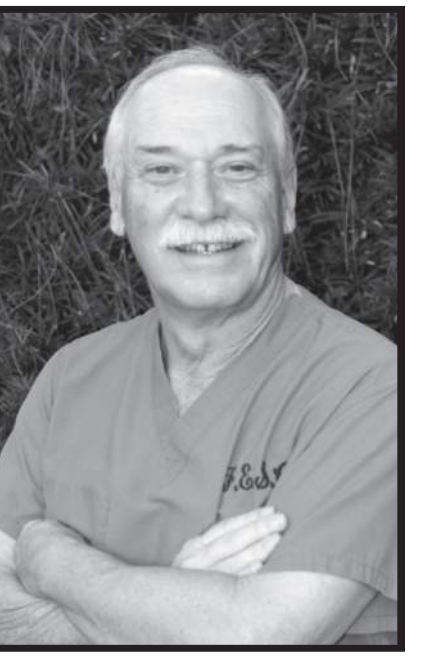
Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090
Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.



KIA

Introducing the 2016 Kia Lineup

The Power to Surprise

2016 **Soul** | starting at **$139** per paycheck

Totally transformed.

More fun to drive, more advanced technology, more surprises. We've packed almost everything into the 2016 Soul. Discover what's inside for yourself.

2016 **Forte** | starting at **$132** per paycheck

Loved by those who love technology™.

All the right technology in a surprisingly sleek package. Having your cake and eating it, too, is what the 2016 Forte is all about.

2016 **Rio** | starting at **$125** per paycheck

FUNctional™.

Performance without compromise. With a Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI) Engine that produces powerful get up and go, the Rio is the state-of-the-art sub-compact that's as fun to look at as it is to drive.

2016 **Sportage** | starting at **$165** per paycheck

Perfect for the road ahead.

Whichever road you choose, the 2016 Sportage is more than ready. With agile handling, an exceptionally smooth ride, and a range of first-class features, every drive is more fun.

2016 **Sedona** | starting at **$227** per paycheck

Transform your drive.

The 2016 Sedona is premium comfort with the power to transform. Fitted with the Smart Power Liftgate and available second-row First-Class Lounge Seats, the Sedona offers a spacious driver cockpit and versatile Slide-N-Stow™ seats, providing intuitive control and flexibility that keeps pace with you.

2016 **Cadenza** | starting at **$264** per paycheck

Dynamic Intelligence.

Cadenza has been reengineered with the aim of creating the perfect blend of dynamic styling, blissful luxury and high-tech features.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. *EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Kia Rio LX retail price $16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $269.22 or $124.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $16,153.20.
Kia Forte LX retail price $17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $285.06 or $131.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,103.60.
Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

IN HANDLING WOMAN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

OAG clears Dr. Claassens, Rota DPS director of wrongdoings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has cleared Dr. Francois Claassens and former Rota police sergeant and now Rota Department of Public Safety director Eusebio Manglona from any wrongdoings in connection with the handling of Kaye Christian, a woman who was diagnosed with mental illness and is suing the government for being allegedly handcuffed and injected with medication.

Acting Attorney General Lillian Tenorio said based on her investigation, she determined that Claassens and Manglona were acting within the scope of their respective employments when the incident complained of in Christian's lawsuit occurred.

According to Tenorio, Christian suffers from bipolar disorder, an illness characterized by a wide range of moods and behavior.

Tenorio said bipolar disorder is treatable through medication and that consumption of alcohol aggravates the symptoms.

Christian has been treated for many years by health care providers at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., including Claassens, a CHCC family practice physician who has worked at the Rota Health Center for 16 years.

Tenorio said Claassens and Dr. Jeremy Richards, a psychiatrist, both treated Christian for several years and are familiar with her condition.

The acting AG said during the latter part of December 2013, Christian entered into a manic state, which may have been aggravated by the consumption of alcohol.

Tenorio said that, on the morning of Dec. 28, 2013, a Rota Health Center social worker went to Christian's residence on Rota to deliver a letter inviting her to a mental health planning committee hearing.

Christian was invited because she is actively involved in addressing mental health issues in the CNMI.

Christian appeared drinking out of a wine glass, which smelled of alcohol. She became angry for no apparent reason and slapped the social worker on the face.

The social worker's 11-year-old son witnessed the incident. The social worker returned to the Rota Health Clinic to report the incident to her superiors. She also filed a criminal complaint against Christian.

Tenorio said that, on Dec. 30, 2013, Christian went to an office at the Rota Health Center, where she made several telephone calls, then became erratic and threatened she would start killing people, starting with a nurse at the CHC psychiatric ward.

Tenorio said during this period of time, Christian made repeated calls to Richards, who was on Saipan.

Alarmed by the tone of content of these calls, Richards contacted Claassens and instructed the latter to contact Rota police in bringing Christian to the Rota Health Center for a psychiatric examination to determine if a 72-hour involuntary civil commitment was necessary.

On the morning of Dec. 31, 2013, Claassens contacted Rota police and asked for assistance.

Manglona told the doctor that he would require a written authorization to bring Christian to the Rota Health Center.

Tenorio said Claassens provided Manglona with a CHCC form for placing individuals suspected of being mentally ill and a danger to self or others under a 72-hour involuntary hold for observation.

Manglona contacted then chief prosecutor Shelli Neal for guidance. Neal later instructed Manglona to proceed, but not place Christian under arrest.

Manglona with two other police officers went to Christian's house. Christian stated that she did not want to go to the Rota Health Center and that Claassens had been killing all of her friends.

Tenorio said at that time, the officers had probable cause to believe that Christian was a danger to herself or others, therefore, they were permitted by law to take her to the Rota Health Center for evaluation.

Tenorio said Christian struggled, resisted the officers, yelled profanities, and tried to punch and kick the officers.

Tenorio said Christian was handcuffed after she was taken downstairs from the house.

Claassens had to give Christian three injections to calm her down at the Rota Health Center.

Christian spent the night at Rota Health Center and the following morning, she was transferred to the psychiatric ward at CHC on Saipan.

Tenorio said medical records indicate that Christian slowly "came down" from her manic state while at CHC and was discharged on Jan. 3, 2014.

In her amended complaint, Christian is suing the CNMI government, Claassens, CHCC, and Manglona for violation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution—unreasonable seizure, deprivation of liberty without due process of law; breach of settlement agreement (use of handcuffs in Rota Health Center; breach of settlement agreement (failure to train); violation of the CNMI Constitution (unreasonable seizure); Involuntary Civil Commitment Act; Patient's Rights Act—chemical restraint, right to ready access to telephone, right to receive copy of rights, and right to keep and use personal possession.

Christian is demanding payment of $1.2 million in damages and seeking the court's order directing the CNMI and CHCC to provide ongoing education and training for all employees to address the Involuntary Commitment Act, the Patient's Rights Act, among others.

Post-Valentine Pinoy movie opens March 11

The Filipino Channel has again teamed up with Regal Cinema Saipan in showing the post-Valentine romantic-comedy, *Always Be My Maybe,* on Friday, March 11. TFC is network giant ABS-CBN's global subscription television channel based in Redwood City, California.

The movie takes on the current trend of having a no-label and no-strings-attached arrangement in relationships between couples that are afraid to commit. The movie also highlights the many layers and complexities of being in a relationship.

Always Be My Maybe, again shown with subtitles, stars Filipino-American actor Gerald Anderson in his first team up with singer-turned-actress Arci Muñoz.

Anderson plays Jake, who gets dumped by his longtime girlfriend on the night that he proposed. He then meets Tintin (Muñoz), a make-up artist who was left by her boyfriend for another girl.

The screening times are 4pm, 7pm, and 10pm on Friday; 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, and 10pm on Saturday (March 12); 1pm, 4pm, and 7pm on Sunday (March 13). From Monday (March 14) to Thursday (March 17) the times are 4pm and 7pm.

For ticket inquiries, call Regal Cinemas at 234-0360 to 01 or 234-9000. ***(Jon Perez)***

FOR ALLEGED TERMINATION OVER HEARING AID

Longtime staff files discrimination lawsuit vs Aqua Resort

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An employee of Aqua Resort Hotel Saipan for 25 years has filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court over his termination allegedly after his hearing aid malfunctioned and he couldn't fully understand what the hotel's general manager told him.

Feloteo V. Ranada, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Aqua Resort to employ him back as a security supervisor and enjoin the hotel from any further prohibited discrimination against him.

Ranada, a Filipino, demanded payment for back pay, damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune contacted Aqua Resort, but as of press time the management had not yet replied for comment.

Rayphand said Ranada has worked for Ken Aqua Hotel and Resort that owns Aqua Resort Hotel since 1989, initially as security guard and rising to the position of security supervisor in 1991.

Rayphand said during the entire time that Ranada was assigned to and worked for Aqua Resort he was an employee of various manpower services who were joint-employers with Aqua Resort.

At the time of his termination by Aqua Resort, Ranada was assigned to work at Aqua Resort by N.V.M. Security Services.

Rayphand said during the years that plaintiff worked for Aqua Resort, the hotel presented him with certifications for trainings conducted by the hotel's personnel department, attendance, outstanding achievement, his loyalty and dedication to the company, and service awards.

In 2005, Ranada began using and has continued to use a hearing aid as a result of hearing loss.

On the morning of Aug. 14, 2014, Ranada's hearing aid malfunctioned.

That same day, Rayphand said, the hotel's then general manager Hiroyuki Toyoshima attempted to ask Ranada about an incident report, but because of his malfunctioning hearing aid, he was unable to fully understand Toyoshima.

Ranada attempted to explain that his hearing aid had just broken and that he was going to contact the hearing aid provider for the replacement.

The following day, Aug. 15, 2014, Toyoshima allegedly terminated plaintiff's employment at the hotel.

Ranada then wrote to the hotel to explain the malfunction of his hearing aid, that the aid had been replaced, and begged the hotel to allow him to work again.

Rayphand said Ranada and a representative of the manpower employer, N.V.M. Security Services Enterprises, met with the hotel's human resources director Becky Cruz in an attempt to reinstate him, but was told that reinstatement was denied because of his hearing impairment.

Rayphand said the hotel's termination of Ranada's employment is a violation of the law, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

Rayphand said the hotel failed to accommodate Ranada's disability for a temporary (less than one day) loss of hearing when his hearing aid malfunctioned.

CCA board meeting on March 15

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its regular meeting on March 15, 3pm at the CCA Conference Room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com.

Survivors, caregivers meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2016, beginning 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

To RSVP or for more information, please call The Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2331

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

For: ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & LANDSCAPING DESIGN SERVICES ON For PASEO DE MARIANAS IMPROVEMENTS

Closing Date: **March 14, 2016** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
MVA Vice Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2332

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

For: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE FOR A SUSTAINABILITY/ FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CNMI'S TRAVEL INDUSTRY

Closing Date: April 8, 2016 Time: 3:00 p.m.
Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2016-007

"PURCHASE OF WILD LAND FIRE TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (DFEMS) - TINIAN"

Bid packets will be available on Friday, February 19, 2016, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

For more information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Procurement Officer, or Mr. Jacob J. Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Edward C. Sablan
Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

MINA to announce Green awardees in May

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance will announce the Green Award winners when they hold the annual Green Gala on May 27 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa-Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. The event is set from 6pm to 10pm on Friday.

The Environmental Champion—given to an individual who showed great care and preservation of natural resources, Environmental Heroes—awarded to either a public or private school whose students and work reflect in protecting the environment, and Green Business of the Year—for the company that has shown commitment to conservation and incorporated it to their entire organization—are the awards up for grabs.

The Green Gala is also MINA's fundraising activity with the amount raised will be used to continue the group's work of helping protect the CNMI's fragile environment.

JON PEREZ
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance chair Frankie Eliptico, fifth left, and executive director Brooke Nevitt, third left, join staff of the non-profit group in yesterday's press launch of their annual Green Gala at the Bridge Capital LLC office in Garapan.

"This is already our 10th year of hosting the Green Gala. We can't believe that it has already been a decade. We are again asking the support of the community to help MINA since we are a non-profit organization our operating funds come from donations," said MINA chair Frankie Eliptico.

Brooke Nevitt is MINA's executive director, while Eleanor Cabrera, Fran Castro, and Ron Smith are board members.

MINA, which hopes to continue its mission of preserving and protecting the CNMI's ecosystem and biodiversity, is also supported by project grants from local businesses.

Tasi Watch Community Rangers, which work in the community in promoting responsible stewardship of the CNMI's natural resources, is one of MINA's projects.

Wayne Dawe, Daniel Ogumoro, Julius Reyes, and Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong are some of MINA's Tasi Watch Community Rangers.

Tickets for the Green Gala are $75 per person and can be bought at their office or any of its staff or board members. Aside from a night of entertainment, dinner, and drinks, the Green Gala will also show MINA's projects and have a silent auction.

"We're really grateful to our sponsors for their generosity and support in helping to make the Green Gala event a success. We are encouraging other companies to also be part of this special event by becoming a sponsor. Every bit helps MINA to continue our work," added Nevitt.

Emerald (above $5,000), Title ($3,000 to $4,999), Major ($1,000 to $2,999), and Event (up to $999) are the categories of the sponsors.

Alter City Group, Tan Holdings, IT&E, Power99, The Nature Conservancy, *Marianas Variety*, Bridge Capital, Pacific Islands Club, The Shack, Blossom's Floral, Herman's Modern Bakery, Gold's Gym, Lollipops, Pacific Insurance, Monika's, SDA Dental Clinic, and Saipan Shipping so far are the sponsors of the event.

Attention, Honda & Acura Drivers.

Please be aware that, we have a National Safety Improvement Campaign and recall under way to repair airbag inflators at no cost to you, in certain Honda and Acura vehicles (listed below). To see if your vehicle needs immediate attention, please check its recall status by taking one of the following steps:

GO to **recalls.honda.com** for Honda drivers,
or **recalls.acura.com** for Acura drivers.

CALL 1-800-999-1009 and choose option 4 for Honda drivers,
or **1-800-382-2238** and choose option 4 for Acura drivers.
Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM Pacific Standard Time.

VISIT Joeten Motors, the authorized Honda dealer in **Saipan** to have it serviced. Or call us at (670) 234-5562.

Honda is committed to addressing your needs and concerns. We will provide a free-of-charge rental car or loaner vehicle if there is a delay while getting your car reapaired.

Almost everyone knows someone who owns a Honda. If you know a Honda or Acura driver who might own an affected vehicle, please encourage them to contact us.

We care about your safety, so please take action immediately.

Affected Models:

2001-2007 Honda Accord
2001-2005 Honda Civic
2002-2006 Honda CR-V
2003-2011 Honda Element
2002-2004 Honda Odyssey
2003-2008 Honda Pilot
2006 Honda Ridgeline
2003-2006 Acura MDX
2002-2003 Acura TL
2003 Acura CL
2005 Acura RL

HONDA

© 2015 American Honda Motor Co. Inc.

STILL WAITING FOR THAT TAX RETURN?

Need your cash now?

STOP worrying and stop HERE!

Perhaps it's not a tax refund loan you are looking for; Express Financial has plenty of cash and makes loans for all your financial needs with the fastest services on island. Express Financial can get you the cash you want for your summer fix-up projects or taking that long awaited family vacation. Come in to see us TODAY or give us a call and we can take your application right over the phone. Our job is to help you succeed financially. Express Financial is located at the corner of Middle Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road. PH-670-235-6032.

Express Financial loans are as easy as 1-2-3

Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply!

#1 Call us direct at 670-235-6032 and our friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone.

#2 Fill out the attached application and fax to 670-235-6040 and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.

#3 Fill out the attached application, scan and email to cccar6985users@carfinancial.com and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.

EXPRESS FINANCIAL *is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs. Helping you succeed financially is our top priority.*

QUICK CASH APPLICATION

Primary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call

Secondary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code_____

EXPRESS FINANCIAL

Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road,
San Jose Village
Phone: (670) 235-6032
Fax: (670) 235-6040

Empty Vessel Ministry thanks WIA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tabita, Topie, and Anton serve clients at Empty Vessel Ministry's garage outreach store.

Tabita and Topie give away donations at the garage outreach store.

EVM staff receive donations of water from Sen. Sixto Igisomar's office.

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation is extending its gratitude to the Workforce Investment Agency for giving EVM volunteers the opportunity to be a part of their disaster dislocation grant program.

Director Rose Smith said, "There are no words that can fully express how much we at Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation appreciates WIA partnership."

EVM commends Department of Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero and Job Replacement Donyale De Leon Guerero for handling their jobs in a professional manner. "Deep gratitude and thankfulness for their jobs well-performed is sincerely expressed," said Smith.

The disaster dislocation program is making a difference in the lives of the EVM staff as well as benefitting the clients they are aiding. EVM staff is receiving much needed training and financial assistance. Through this, full-time staff is now available to serve clients on a daily basis, including weekends.

Rufina, Tabitha, Rose, and Anton receive gift certificates from Tan Holdings.

EVM staff and volunteers have worked a total of 6,620.50 hours to assist clients, sort out donations, offload containers, and distribute donated items.

Below are just some quotes from hardworking WIA staff that, in turn, were helped financially while working at EVM.

"I'm so thankful for WIA for supporting us volunteers at EVM to be on payroll trainees. WIA you're such a blessing to us at EVM. Thank you so much," said Rufina Angui.

"WIA helped me financially to take care of myself. WIA was able to assist me to get computer class, and it was my first time to learn about computers," said Topie Paongo.

"WIA is a blessing to us. Because of their assistance I am able to support my family and also can continue to assist people with their needs. Thank you WIA from the bottom of our hearts," said Tabita Alokoa. ***(PR)***

Manta Ray Battalion Leadership Team heads to Washington

Congratulations to the Manta Ray Battalion JROTC Leadership Team for being among the Top 40 Army JROTC Leadership teams in the world and advancing to the third phase of the nation-wide online JROTC Leadership Academic Bowl (JLAB).

The competition tests the cadets' knowledge of the lessons taught in JROTC as well as iconic heroes such as General George Marshall and General Douglas MacArthur.

The team started the competition on November 2015, with the first phase, advancing to the second phase on February 2016, and is now advancing to the final level in which cadets will be competing offisland at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. from June 24 to 28, 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Manta Ray Battalion JROTC Leadership Team made up of C/1SG June Alipio, C/CPT Matthew Kapileo, C/2LT Katrina Valencia, C/1LT Natalia Javier, C/SFC Ezekiel Rafanan, C/1SG Joshua Mendiola, and CSM Richard Basa pose for a group photo.

The Manta Ray Battalion JROTC Leadership Team is made up of C/1SG June Alipio, C/CPT Matthew Kapileo, C/2LT Katrina Valencia, C/1LT Natalia Javier, C/SFC Ezekiel Rafanan, C/1SG Joshua Mendiola, and CSM Richard Basa. ***(PR)***

Temporary water service interruption in Gualo Rai

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the village of Gualo Rai experienced a temporary water service interruption last night, March 6, as USA Fanter decommissioned the old tank and transferring water service to the new temporary tanks for the Gualo Rai Tank Replacement Project.

Water service hours will return to regular service hours on the evening of Monday, March 7, 2016. Updates will follow as soon as they are available.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

This project is funded by the Department of the Interior- Office of Insular Affairs through the CNMI CIP Office. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 7, 2000

Gov't steps up campaign against sale of alcohol, tobacco to minors

The CNMI government is intensifying its campaign against the sale of tobacco and alcoholic beverages to minors through the deployment of teams from the Department of Commerce to conduct random inspections of establishments in the islands. Part of the random inspection is the education of establishment owners on the ills of selling the regulated items to minors, which include confiscation and permanent suspension of business permits. Andrew Salas, director of the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division of the commerce department, said teams are dispatched primarily not to catch violators but discourage the sale of alcohol and tobacco to persons under the age of 21 years and 18 years respectively.

CPA denies discrimination charge

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday brushed off allegations that the agency discriminated an accounts clerk of the seaport who filed a civil suit before the U.S. District Court last week. Mr. Salas said CPA has never discriminated against any of the ports authority's employees, in reaction to the $1 million discrimination and harassment civil suit lodged by seaport accounts clerk Rudy C. Aguon. Aside from $1 million representing damages for injury, pain and suffering and emotional distress, Mr. Aguon is demanding payment for medical and incidental expenses, loss of earnings, attorney's fees and litigation costs.

March 7, 2001

Special enforcement team upgrades high-risk arrests

Leave it to this team of proficiently-trained men to bust the most wanted of criminals. In full force, the 16-member Tactical Response Enforcement Team derived from various divisions under the Department of Public Safety is capable of administering high-risk arrest warrants, specifically of crooks that have defected from the police force. Crisis scenarios involving armed and dangerous suspects is the game plan they have steadfastly been trained for over seven years now. TRET's principal mission is to control high-risk situations in the Commonwealth, that normal patrolmen in the streets were not trained to handle.

$2.4M earmarked for Kobler Housing

Prompt completion of all 45 housing units in Koblerville is now within reach following the signing into law of a measure that appropriates $2.4 million to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. The signing of acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan of House Bill 12-235 into Public Law 12-40 will help NMHC meet its original completion target for the Koblerville project this year, almost two years since actual construction started in 1999. Housing Executive Director Marylou S. Ada disclosed majority of the units have already been pre-qualified to interested families and that NMHC expects to officially award the units soon after construction work is completed in three months.

March 7, 2006

BOE reviews regs on schools' fundraising

The Board of Education is reviewing its guidelines on the fundraising activities of public schools after a number of parents complained that the practice is being abused by several parent and teachers associations. BOE board member Herman T. Guerrero said during a board meeting last week that several parents have come up to him and brought up the issue about certain PTAs abusing the funds that are collected from these fundraising activities. Guerrero told the board that three such associations, which he did not name, are allegedly "abusing" the money by not fully accounting for the funds that are raised. These complaints are not new to the school system, said Guerrero, adding that incidents like these have occurred a few years back and some are recurring again this school year.

BIG employees complete OSHA certification

The hard working and dedicated group of employees at Bridge Investment Group received their certification from Omega Safety and Compliance Asia Pacific, an accredited regulatory compliance support company based in Guam.

On Nov. 8, 2015, they received their certifications after completing the OSHA construction industry safety and health training; completed training in powered industrial truck (forklift), heavy equipment operation safety for backhoes, excavators, loaders, dump truck, and an 8-hour training on transportation of hazardous material/dangerous goods. These workshops provided the employees a deeper understanding on proper safety protocols.

The heavy equipment supervisor is very grateful for these workshops and stated, "It is very comforting knowing that BIG believes in us and we will continue to work hard for a company that has confidence in the local workforce. I know that we have the potential to grow as individuals and prosper as a community."

The Bridge Investment Group is committed in local hiring and continued training. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Bridge Investment Group staff Bruce Masga, Rem Diaz, George Borja, Marvin Cruz, Marcelino Biz, William Shippey, Richard Farrell, Gregorio Vergara, Joe Raymond Manglona, Trenton Conner, Rino Reyes, Joseph Mendiola, Steve Mendiola, Peter A. Villagomez Sr., and Joseph Villagomez pose for a group photo after completing their OSHA construction industry safety and health training.

Community invited to NMC's 35th Annual Charter Day Celebration

To celebrate more then 35 years of enriching lives through higher education, the Northern Marianas College is inviting the CNMI community to its biggest celebration of the year, Charter Day, on April 8 and 9, 2016.

"We're inviting everyone to join us in As Terlaje for our Charter Day celebration," said Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services. "We'll be showcasing various programs, hosting fun competitions, and of course, featuring great entertainment."

The festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 9pm on Friday, April 8, and from 9am to 4pm on Saturday, April 9.

The event will feature an array of entertainment and competitions throughout the celebration. Delicious food, drinks, and games will also be offered for sale by numerous vendors.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, game booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces will be on April 1, 2016. Booth space is limited so applications should be submitted as soon the deadline is announced. The booth fee is $250 for businesses and organizations and $100 for NMC clubs and nonprofit organizations. For more information about reserving booth space, contact Queanna Sablan at 237-6774. For more information about Charter Day, contact Greg Sablan at 237-6795. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-005

WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT, SAILING DRIVE, DANDAN (W12-022D)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Water Main Extension Project in Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work consists of the installation of approximately 940 LF of new 8-inch PVC water line, along with approximately 500 LF of new 2" PVC water line. It will also involve the reconnection of new and existing customers onto the new waterlines within the project area.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **75 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-16-005, Water Main Extension Project, Sailing Drive, Dandan** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 18, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 3, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, CUC Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer – via email john.riegel@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

2016 MARCH-CDA 30TH ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2016

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 30TH ANNIVERSARY 1985 - 2015

MARCH

07 MONDAY
OPEN HOUSE - Saipan, Tinian, Rota
8:30am - 3:30pm

08 TUESDAY
STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING
Tinian, NMC Campus Room D
8:00am - 12:00pm

10 THURSDAY
STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING
Saipan, Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
8:00am - 12:00pm

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING OUTLINE

1. CDA Introduction
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
   a. DCD Chairman's Remarks
   b. Loan Status Report
   c. Micro Loan
   d. State Small Business Credit Initiative Program
5. Qualifying Certificate Program & Other Economic Development Programs
6. Partnership Projects & Recognitions
   a. Certificates of Appreciation
   b. Micro Loan & SSBCI Featured Borrowers
7. Public Comments – Questions and Answers

OPEN HOUSE

- Every Monday in the month of March
- Tour of CDA Office
- Video 30 years of CDA will run through out the day
- Rank Logos for CDA
- Giveaways
- 1 Raffle Coupon per person Prize Drawing on Friday, March 31, 2016
- Light Refreshments

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 46

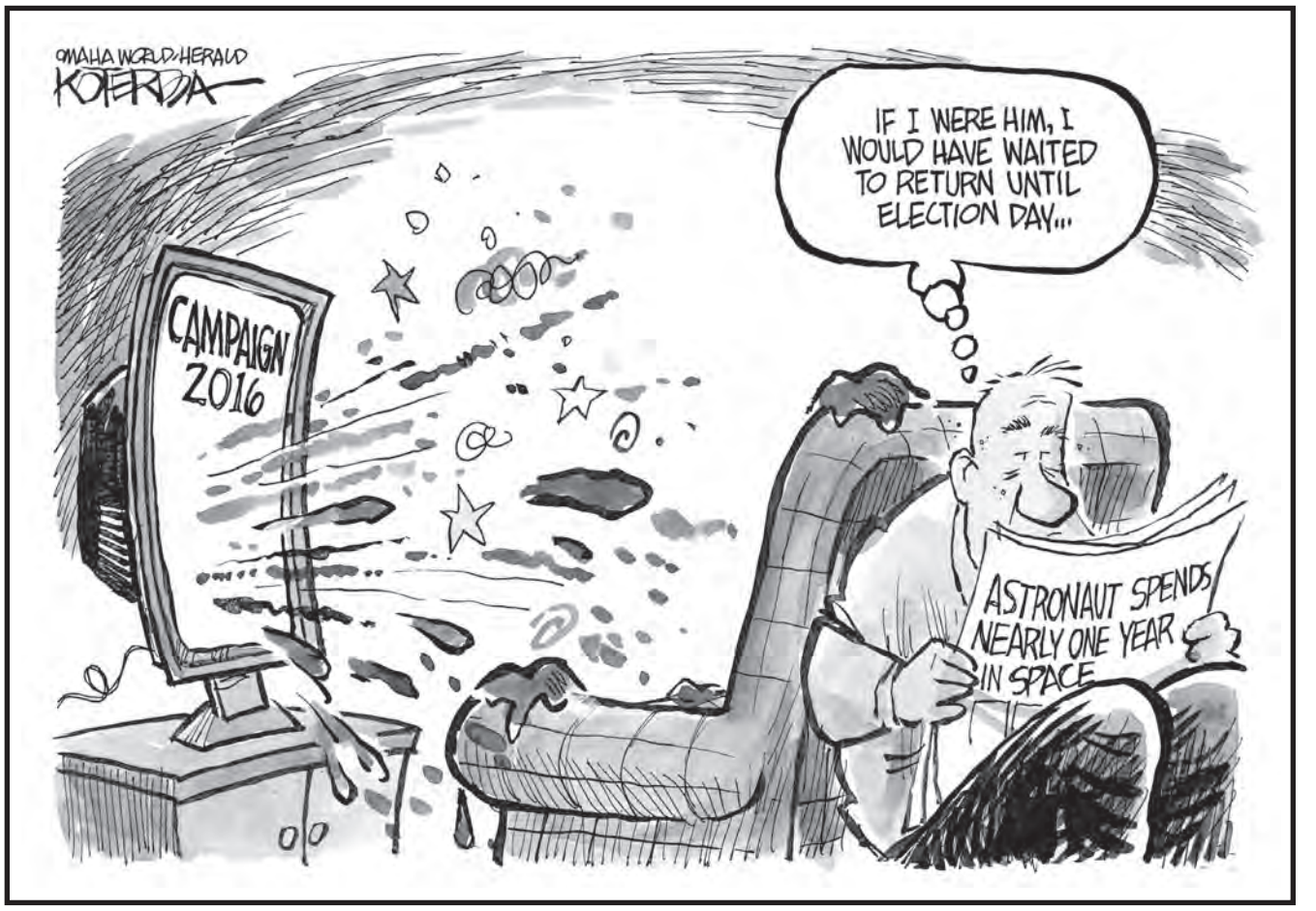
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA
CAMPAIGN 2016
IF I WERE HIM, I WOULD HAVE WAITED TO RETURN UNTIL ELECTION DAY...
ASTRONAUT SPENDS NEARLY ONE YEAR IN SPACE

EDITORIAL

Should Britain stay or should it go?

We interrupt the U.S. presidential campaign to report a Trump-like development across the pond. Not baseball caps saying, "Make Britain Great Again." Rather, a stunning rise in political resentment that could rock our allies in the European Union.

The issue is whether Britain should stay in the EU. Polls show a tight race as a June 23 referendum looms. British Euroskeptics think EU membership saddles their vibrant country with onerous ties to a struggling Continent. Their call to exit Europe is known as Brexit.

We won't get carried away comparing Donald Trump's appeal to angry American voters with Britain's debate, but: Much as Trump criticizes trade deals and a porous border with a promise to "take our country back," the Euroskeptics rail against the EU power structure in Brussels. Here's Michael Gove, Britain's secretary of state for justice, in a Facebook post: "I've seen hundreds of new EU rules cross my desk, none of which were requested by the U.K. Parliament, none of which I or any other British politician could alter in any way and none of which made us freer, richer or fairer."

And here's Boris Johnson, London's mayor, writing in The Telegraph: "We have become so used to Nanny in Brussels that we have become infantilized, incapable of imagining an independent future. We used to run the biggest empire the world has ever seen, and with a much smaller domestic population and a relatively tiny Civil Service." Give Trump an English accent and he'd sound similar: "We don't win anymore," he says, often.

The crux of Brexit: How did the country that produced the Magna Carta give away its sovereignty? Many in the United Kingdom resent the Eurocrats' sway over everything from the size of olive oil containers to the maximum bonus amounts for bankers. Britain outside the EU would focus more on, and invest more in, its own growth. It also could control immigration. EU countries permit freedom of movement, which generally means EU citizens can live and work in the U.K., arguably taking jobs from Brits. Euroskeptics want to retake power over that right.

But is Brexiting realistic? No one can assure the U.K. economy would be stronger on the outside. Prime Minister David Cameron, who says his country should stay in the EU, negotiated a deal to lessen some EU intrusions on Britain but not enough to pre-empt the referendum.

A divorce could be messy. Britain would have to negotiate new trade agreements, and the EU wouldn't be generous because it wants to discourage other countries from leaving. So there's no guarantee, for example, that in exchange for economic access to Europe, Britain could close its doors to migration. More likely, Britain would have to abide by many of the same EU rules but not have a seat at the table for the rule-making.

Brexit would have global impact, which is why we have a rooting interest in a contest that's for British voters to decide.

A British departure would take down the EU's clout a notch, weakening a pillar of the world order that plays a role in actions such as sanctions against Russia over Ukraine. If

See BRITAIN on Page 11

Housing

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

There are three priorities on my list. The first is housing, next is mobility, and the last is food. The last is manageable as one can always show up at Filipino friends' houses at din-din and partake of the *ginamos*, *dilis*, and *pusit*.

Mobility has no alternative in an island devoid of public transport; expenditure-wise, that's top on the list. Happily, there are folks in the dealership where I signed a three-year lease on a car less than a year ago and my two months' behind in rental is rolled over graciously until I am in a more stable condition. Soon.

It is the housing that is a bit problematic and after Soudelor, when it became clear that the office on Language Learning we established did not see the expected subscription we thought would come from China, Korea, and Japan, the two units we rented (for housing and office) became a sore point in our bottom arrears (pun intended).

I located near the community college thinking that we could faculty adjunct but a new WASC rule requires that my BA degree earned in '65 be assessed, and the process requires that I formally asked my College in the Philippines to send a copy of my diploma to the assessors who are in Chicago.

Then I received the threat of an eviction if I did not settle my arrears by the end of February. I started following up previous contacts for alternative dwelling. I wrote earlier to the landlord higher-ups for a credit line (not forgiveness) of six months that was misunderstood so I am preparing to willingly be "evicted" off the unit.

I had the dwelling first on a year contract, occupied by a stepson and an "adopted" daughter. My petition for my son to migrate was approved but made after he already turned 21, so he has to line up like the rest of the other migrants, a possible seven-year wait. The scuba-diving daughter decided to invest in a business facility and moved out with my son when I mentioned that I was returning the unit.

I returned the unit to the landlord with arrears of three months' rental, after deducting the deposit. I indicated to the landlord office staff how I would handle the remaining balance, making sure they understood "how," in spite of the prevailing financial and seemingly insurmountable contradiction.

I set up the other unit as an office where I remain bunked, now in arrears of four months. Concerned colleagues informed me that I probably should seek housing assistance; I qualify as a "homeless" person.

A Carolinian friend, while in Hawaii, experienced a similar contradiction and relates how he survived sleeping in his car. Understanding my situation, he reserved a spot for my car under his pine trees by the beach in case I wish to park the night away while the housing unit I applied for nearby that has me on a waiting list, gets to my number. It does not look like I will be a homeless person panhandling in a public place anytime soon, but I surely do not condemn and can sympathize with those who have to.

There is no quarrel with my current landlord. They are doing their job, and I am in an embarrassing state of arrears, rather unexpected for a former schoolteacher at PSS, a professional clergy, a writer, among other credentials to my credit. On the other hand, the landlord has a business to run with procedures to follow, not to mention the *mukha*, *chemyeon*, and *mienzi* (social face) requiring the housing executive to look like he was doing his job, an ethos prevailing in the stratified social structures of offices where performance of duties in the eyes of peers need to look efficient; looking good is not easily dismissible.

Meanwhile, we need a roof over our head. Most units available are expensive short-term rentals, or the affordable ones over-subscribed. I am now cleaning out the folding back seat of my car in case I have to roll and nightly spread a bag on the side. The good thing though is that the tropics welcome beachcombers, and as long as I can maintain my car lease, I shall be OK.

I can dream of being a Pirate in the Caribbean without sails, or, a homeless bum in CK, but we do have marketable skills, and SVES as well as WSR need teachers. I was a substitute once, and already, I expect to be in the Title I program next contract year to afford new rubber shoes on my feet and milk on my table.

Housing for myself is obviously a contradiction. Seeing real estate used by the indigene population, public land might be at a premium but it is still only available to those with the right kind of DNA. I do not have the necessary chromosomes but I am no longer on the career path, so, beyond rent and lease is not my goal.

I really do not think my landlord is serious about "eviction," or, at least, I happen to think that the legal office used a standard form to threaten delinquent accounts, and I am certainly delinquent on that score. So I volunteer to move by the end of the month.

Why am I bothering with this account? My next-door neighbor's dwelling is swelling with many displaced tenants. I just joined the League.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Republicans aren't picking the GOP candidate

By CHRISTIAN SCHNEIDER
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Christian Schneider is a columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

It's the most puzzling question of the election season: Why are Republicans on the brink of nominating a presidential candidate who stands for virtually nothing Republicans hold dear? Isn't this the party that the media has been telling us has been lurching to the far right for a decade? Wasn't the tea party movement an attempt to purge moderates from the GOP?

In a recent column, I offered up the possibility that non-Republicans actually may be playing a big role in nominating the current Republican front-runner, Donald Trump. It's possible that Democrats and independents may be making a concerted effort to nominate the unelectable Trump by crossing over and voting in the Republican primaries; it's also likely Trump is drawing people to the polls who are unaffiliated with any party, but who like his brash, vulgar politics.

Some hints can be found in the exit polling data from states that already have held their primaries. What we find is that, typically, one-quarter to one-half of voters in the GOP primaries so far identify as "independent." And of the voters who claim no political affiliation, Trump virtually always wins the largest percentage.

Take Massachusetts, for instance, which Trump won by a large margin. Half the voters in the Massachusetts primary held on Super Tuesday identified as "independent." Of those voters, 50 percent voted for Trump. All total, 631,000 people voted in the primary — if half those voters were independents, and Trump got half that subset, it means Trump picked up 158,000 votes from people who don't consider themselves Republicans.

Keep in mind, just days before the election, the Massachusetts secretary of state reported that nearly 20,000 state residents had changed their registration from "Democrat" to "Republican" since the beginning of the year. Some have argued that's because Democrats wanted to vote against Trump, but that's pure oatmeal. How many Democrats are voting for Ted Cruz or Marco Rubio — both of whom could beat Hillary in November? Especially after some well-documented instances of Democrats crossing over to support an unelectable Republican?

Last week, a CNN poll showed Rubio beating Clinton 50 percent to 47 percent nationwide, and Cruz in a virtual tie with Clinton. Yet, the same poll showed Clinton with a commanding 52 percent to 44 percent lead on Trump. So how are two more popular candidates stuck behind a candidate with no chance of winning? (I personally suspect polls are currently overstating the vote Trump would receive in a general election. When zero minorities support a candidate, he is toast before the general even begins.)

In the primary states on March 1, GOP turnout increased by a ridiculous 52 percent. Somehow, candidates in previous Republican presidential primaries were unable to identify these voters and get them to the polls. But suddenly, they miraculously start showing up in states where a celebrity candidate is doing well at the same time that Democratic votes in those same states plummet.

In Tennessee, 33 percent of the voters identified as "independent," and Trump won 40 percent of those voters. In New Hampshire, 42 percent of voters in the GOP primary were non-Republicans, and Trump won 38 percent of those voters. (Keep in mind, there were still 11 candidates in the race in New Hampshire, so that's a rout of non-Republicans.)

Finally, none of this matches the eyeball test. There's no question Trump has some support in the Republican Party, and it seems to span all levels of education, income and geography. But as The New York Times' Nate Cohn recently pointed out, Trump's most ardent supporters actually are registered Democrats who share at least some DNA with Republicans.

One of the laziest throwaway lines of this election season is that Republicans somehow "created" Trump through their "divisive" rhetoric and policies. But this is abject nonsense. I've spent two decades actively involved in the conservative movement, and I am shocked that the GOP would allow Trump to attach himself to the party like a barnacle. I didn't learn about the Republican Party from watching MSNBC; the good people I've met over the years have strong feelings about limiting government and expanding freedom — concepts to which Trump is openly hostile.

Democrats are just lucky Trump didn't come for them, given he spent the entirety of his life (until a few years ago) as a member of their party.

In the debate Thursday night, Trump bragged that he's brought "millions" of people "into the Republican Party." But a vote for Trump does not make one a "Republican." It merely makes you gullible.

We're on the 'Eve of Destruction'

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

I woke up on Wednesday morning with a song going through my head: "The Eve of Destruction." It bounced around in the echo chamber between my ears as I brushed and flossed, as I ironed my blouse, as I coaxed my hair into a semblance of order. Barry McGuire's gargled-with-rocks voice pounded the words into my brain and carved the sentiment into my soul: "Tell me, over and over and over again, my friend. Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction."

Looking back at me in the mirror was the same sardonic morning smile, the one I arm myself with to meet the day's fresh but manageable hells. But instead of irony, it communicated emptiness, the same emptiness I felt the morning after Barack Obama was elected to the presidency the first time. Where, I thought, do I go from here?

By this point you're shaking your head and moving on to the sports or the health or the comics section, if there is still a comics section to peruse. That's another thing: the newspaper industry has fallen on such hard times that most papers have shrunk to mailer levels. Now, the Internet has stepped in and robbed newsprint of its relevance, despite that best picture Oscar for "Spotlight."

And if you are still reading, if I still haven't depressed you to the point where you'll need a Shirley Temple marathon to stave off the demons, let me explain why I woke up with Barry McGuire, a man I hardly know.

Wednesday morning, it became fairly evident that the choices we Americans have given to ourselves for the general election are Satan and the Angel of Death. I'm not quite sure who is who, and I apologize to my agnostic or atheist readers for bringing religion into a purely political discussion, but I have no other way to express just how angry I am at what we've cooked up for the autumn hunting season.

You might be saying, at least those of you on the right, that it's not a done deal and there is still a possibility that Donald Trump will not be the GOP nominee come August. And my friends on the left who despise Hillary and feel that Bernie has a fighting chance will think I'm showing disrespect to everybody's favorite underdog or, as the Czechs would have called him in 1968, a socialist with a human face.

And believe me, if it weren't illegal, I'd sell one of my kidneys to guarantee a Rubio candidacy or even the possibility of some Cruz control (even though his views on immigration repel me), but the math doesn't make that likely.

And so, I looked in my mirror and pretended that it was just another morning in March, when it was actually the beginning of the end. I haven't felt this empty since Obama was re-elected to a second term. Back then, I wrote these words, penned in the evening hours after 47 percent of the people weren't able to put Mitt Romney and my political crush Paul Ryan over the top:

"When I woke up Wednesday morning, it was dark. There was something ominous about that mid-week morning, something I hadn't felt in many years, something that I hadn't even felt when my father died decades ago. It was a sense of intangible, yet visceral, loss. Barack Obama will have four more years to lead this country."

Clearly, I am at my most melodramatic on Wednesday mornings.

But to be truthful, the sadness I felt when Obama was given four more years to do his mischief is nothing compared to what I'm experiencing now with the prospect of having to live with either the Evil Orange Oompa Loompa or the She-Beast in a Pantsuit for the next four years. I have no tolerance for either of the front-runners, and it amazes me that in a country of millions of brilliant, creative, soulful and accomplished individuals, it's essentially come down to a lying serial womanizer whose idea of immigration policy is building a wall (hey, let's call the Amish, they're cheap!) and a lying woman whose idea of diplomacy is hiding her head like an ostrich while her diplomatic employees burn to death.

Yes, I know that Trump has said he'd let some of the people he'd round up jump back over the wall in due time, and I know that Clinton was able to cackle her way through an incompetent congressional investigation, and I know that there are people who think both of these candidates are just what we need to either "make America great again" or "screw the Republicans" but excuse me if I don't feel inspired by the choices.

It's been a very long time since I have admired anyone in elective office. I felt that way about my former governor and fellow Democrat Bob Casey Sr. I felt that way about my generation's hero, Ronald Reagan. I probably would have felt that way about JFK and Bobby, had I been old enough to understand what they were trying to do. I felt that way about Dick Thornburgh, another former governor who kept us sane as we teetered on the edge of a nuclear holocaust my senior year of high school.

But this? This is as disgusting as the frozen smile on the face of Chris Christie, the hilarious defense of women and their dignity from Bill Clinton's wife, the desperate spluttering about penis size and sweating from both Rubio and Trump.

Barry McGuire was on to something.

BRITAIN

From Page 10

Britain bolts, other countries may follow. Scottish nationalists might be inclined to push for another referendum on leaving Britain. It's not hard to imagine the EU splintering as Vladimir Putin applauds. China, too.

The idea behind European unity is that countries bound together are likelier to create wealth than to start wars. This is also the broader model for global integration: Close economic and political ties don't eliminate all risks, pain or annoyances, but they make the participating countries stronger and safer.

Being part of the EU isn't about losing control, it's about ensuring stature. We hope our cousins choose to Bremain.

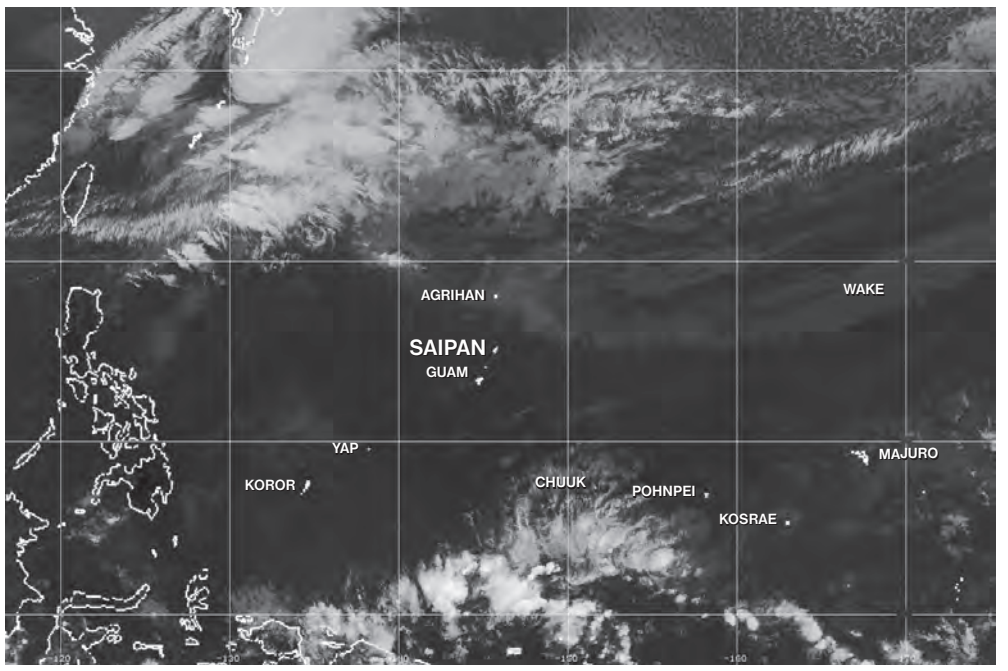
©2016 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:49 PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area near 25N180 and extends to 23N170E then continues as a shear line north of Wake Island continuing through the Northern Marianas at 19N145E to beyond 130E at 18N. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from 2N130E to EQ145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms could be found south of Palau, Yap and Chuuk between 1N and 6N from 130E to 152E. Low-level trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers near Chuuk and Pohnpei between 5N and 7N from 152E to 160E and between 3N and 7N from 163E to 167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro between 1N and 3N from 170E to 180. A series of trade-wind disturbances are generating patchy areas of clouds and showers from near the Marianas and eastward or between 12N and 17N from 140E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲56	▼28
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼30
Los Angeles	Showers	▲64	▼49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼65
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼65
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Paris	Ice	▲44	▼33
Pusan	Sunny	▲60	▼41
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼43
Salem	Thunderstorms	▲55	▼41
San Francisco	Rain	▲60	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼34
Tokyo	Rain	▲63	▼54
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲52	▼37

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
6:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:36 PM	7:11 AM
Tuesday	8:23 PM	7:49 AM
Wednesday	9:11 PM	8:28 AM
Thursday	10:00 PM	9:09 AM
Friday	10:51 PM	9:52 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

BSI continues to help build safer communities

Supporting the local community through its corporate social responsibility work, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. continues to commit itself toward building stronger and safer villages for everyone to enjoy.

The company's Corporate Social Responsibility team and the work they do have been the cornerstone of its growing partnership and collaboration. For the last six months, communities have stepped up to join CSR's voluntary work in various villages and communities through The Village Pride Project.

Recently, it has centered its focus up north in Tanapag when its CSR team, led by director Geri Dela Cruz, invested in repairing, cleaning, and renovating several public facilities located within Tanapag Beach Park and its adjacent area. These structures have been left unattended due to lack of needed resources to maintain the facilities' structural integrity. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A precariously dangling roof on the other side of the Tanapag Social Hall is unsafe for the public.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This unsightly graffiti-ridden pavilion was once a place where residents from the northern part of the island used to enjoy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With new paint, a brighter and cleaner Tanapag Youth Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With much-needed beautification, including applying fresh coat of paint and clean up, this pavilion is restored back to its old beauty.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

.The Tanapag Social Hall before its clean up.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A structurally safe Tanapag Social Hall after the work done by Best Sunshine International's CSR team.

Naval Base Guam hosts US, Japanese ships for Multi-sail 2016

APRA HARBOR, Guam— Ten naval surface combatants assigned to the U.S. and Japanese navies arrived in-port to Apra Harbor, U.S. Naval Base Guam, as part of the bilateral exercise, Multi-Sail 2016 (MS-16) last Friday.

The ship composition includes five forward deployed U.S. Arleigh Burke class destroyers and one Ticonderoga class cruiser and four Japanese Maritime Defense (JMSDF) destroyers including one destroyer command ship. The arrival of MS-16 surface ships increased the total number of visiting and home-ported vessels at the base to 20 and marked the largest contingent of vessels in Apra Harbor in more than 30 years.

Multi Sail is a six-day bilateral training event under the exercise control of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 15. MS-16 is aimed at interoperability and collective benefits from realistic, shared training between the U.S. and Japanese forces. This training enables real-world proficiency in sustaining combined forces through detecting, locating, tracking and engaging units at sea, in the air, on land, and underwater in response to a range of mission areas, as well as ensuring stability and security throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S. and JMSDF ships will conduct combined operations in the waters off Guam over the next week, exercising a wide range of capabilities and demonstrating the inherent flexibility of combined forces. These capabilities range from maritime security operations to anti-submarine and air defense exercises as well as complex warfighting.

"Naval Base Guam exists to support forward deployed operations and our warfighters at sea," said Capt. Andy Anderson, Commanding Officer of NBG. "Apra Harbor is a major contributor to the U.S. Navy's maritime strategy and our ability to sustain the fleet in this part of the globe. We are excited to host all these ships and demonstrate our capability to support our maritime forces in-port Guam." ***(PR)***

NMC Career Fair attracts 40 employers

Northern Marianas College recently hosted a Career Fair to connect CNMI businesses and organizations with NMC students. The Fair was hosted at the Saipan World Resort and welcomed about 40 different employers from all industries, including hospitality, nonprofit, insurance, environment, health care, telecommunications, marketing, and retail. ***(PR)***

NMC

Clarice Arriola, Eileen Babauta, and Orrin Pharmin pose by the CNMI Small Business Development Center exhibit table.

NMC acting president David J. Attao poses with College Access Challenge Grant staff and ambassadors. NMC

NMC

CACG Outreach Counselor Christine A. Inos and members of the CNMI Scholarship Office smile for a photo.

NMC

Northern Marianas College's Career manager and event coordinator Neda C. Deleon Guerrero meets and greets jobseekers.

Hyatt Regency Saipan members reach out to prospective employees.

BECQ CNMI Coral Reef Initiative speaks to a career fair participant. NMC

A career participant gestures as she asks a POI Aviation representative questions. NMC

NMC

NMC students look on as a Saipan World Resort employee go through career opportunities.

Business

Malaysia Airlines out of danger 2 years after MH370 disaster

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia Airlines is out of intensive care. Now it's working on long-term rehabilitation.

Two years ago this week, disaster struck when Flight 370 vanished, leaving the company reeling from a crisis magnified months later by the downing of a second Boeing 777 over Ukraine.

Shunned by travelers and already ailing from years of mismanagement that saddled it with at least $1.7 billion in losses since 2011, the Southeast Asian airline teetered on the edge of bankruptcy, forcing its government owners to carry out radical restructuring.

New CEO Christoph Mueller, a turnaround veteran, has been scaling back or cutting unprofitable routes, grounding jets and axing 6,000 workers from a bloated workforce as part of a $1.7 billion overhaul aimed at returning the carrier to profitability as early as next year.

Analysts say, however, the strategy of shrinking to survive makes Malaysia vulnerable to fierce competition from the budget carriers proliferating to serve Asia's booming, travel-hungry middle class consumers. Competitors include homegrown rival Malaysia AirAsia as well as Indonesia's Lion Air, Singapore's Tigerair and Scoot and Qantas offshoot Jetstar.

AP

In this Aug. 6, 2015 file photo, relatives of passengers aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that went missing on March 8, 2014, are watched by security guards as they console each other at the lobby of the Malaysia Airlines office in Beijing.

Mueller made his biggest move yet in December, unveiling a strategic alliance with Emirates that allows Malaysia Airlines to piggyback onto more than 90 of the Gulf carrier's global routes as it shrinks its own network to focus on Asia.

The deal with Emirates, one of the world's biggest airlines by seat capacity, was "definitely a rabbit out of the hat," said Mohshin Aziz, an aviation analyst at Maybank Kim Eng Securities. "Yet they made it happen. For me, that's definitely a solid foundation for their future survival."

Still, the unsolved mystery of MH370 haunts the airline.

Flight 370 disappeared after leaving Kuala Lumpur on March 8, 2014, carrying 293 people. No trace of the Boeing 777 has been found except for a wing part on a Reunion beach last year and, possibly, part of a tail section discovered last weekend on the Mozambique coast.

In June 2014, Flight 17 was shot down en route to Amsterdam by what Dutch authorities say was a Soviet-designed missile, killing all 298 people on board.

Despite better than expected rankings in airline safety surveys, some travelers still worry, complicating Malaysia's battle against cutthroat competition. Passenger traffic at Kuala Lumpur International Airport's main terminal, used by Malaysia Airlines and other full-service carriers, fell 9.2 percent last year, while traffic at the budget terminal rose 9.5 percent.

Mohshin credits Mueller, a German and the first foreigner to lead the airline, with making tough changes avoided by predecessors.

However, Shukor Yusof, founder of aviation research firm Endau Analytics, said Mueller's strategy was too focused on short-term gains.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: UK business group boss suspended for anti-EU stance

LONDON (AP)—The Financial Times newspaper says the head of the British Chambers of Commerce has been suspended after saying the U.K. should leave the European Union. Director-general John Longworth told the organization's convention this week that Britain faced a choice between "the devil and the deep blue sea." He told Sky News that "the U.K. would be better off taking a decision to leave" the EU. The group, which represents hundreds of businesses, says it will not campaign on either side in Britain's EU membership referendum. A majority of its member businesses supported staying in the bloc when surveyed last year. The FT said Longworth had been temporarily suspended for violating the group's neutral stance. The British Chambers of Commerce did not immediately respond to a call seeking comment Saturday.

Amazon reverses course, will allow local encryption

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is reversing course and will let customers resume encrypting locally stored data on their Fire tablets. Amazon removed the ability to encrypt local data in September because it said customers weren't using the service. That decision came under new scrutiny last week as Apple squares off against the FBI over access to the encrypted iPhone of San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook. Amazon spokeswoman Robin Handaly said Saturday that a full encryption option will be offered in a Fire software update coming this spring. She said the company had no further comment on the issue. Encryption protects user data by scrambling it and only allowing access with a password. Amazon removed device encryption, but communication between Fire devices and Amazon's cloud, and data stored within the cloud, is still encrypted.

China's top economic planner: 'Hard landing' impossible

BEIJING (AP)—China's top economic planning official on Sunday said it is impossible that the Chinese economy would have a "hard landing"—or a sharp slowdown after a period of robust growth—and offered assurances that it would continue to contribute to global growth, not hinder it.

Xu Shaoshi, director of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a news conference that China's economy has inner flexibility and abilities to resist risks.

"I can say, China's economy will absolutely not have a hard landing," Xu said. "The so-called predictions for a hard landing will definitely come to nothing. Please rest assured, this possibility does not exist."

Last year, China's growth slowed to a 25-year low of 6.9 percent—but Xu said that this was still one of the fastest expansion rates in the world. On Saturday, Premier Li Keqiang said in a report to the annual National People's Congress that authorities set a growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent for this year.

In his remarks at a news conference on the congress' sidelines, Xu said China would remain stable despite sustained turbulence in the global economy.

"We are completely capable of running China's economy within a reasonable range," Xu said. "We are fully confident about the prospects for development."

"Our contribution to the global economy is very obvious," he added. "We are still a major engine for the growth of the world economy."

Xu said Beijing is taking steps to reduce overcapacity in production. China will cut steel production by 100 million to 150 million tons over five years and another 500 million tons in coal production in three to five years.

Does an extremist's iPhone contain a 'cyber pathogen'?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A local prosecutor has offered an unusual justification for forcing Apple to help hack an iPhone used by a San Bernardino mass killer: The phone might have been "used as a weapon" to introduce malicious software to county computer systems.

San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael Ramos acknowledged to The Associated Press that there's no evidence of malicious software in the county's computer network. But he added, "I wouldn't call it a total hypothetical."

Computer security experts say the prospect is unlikely. By late Friday, the prosecutor's claim had sparked a wave of social media postings, many of which mocked the DA's use of the non-technical term "cyber pathogen" to describe the supposed malware.

Apple has resisted calls to help unlock the phone, arguing that building a software tool to override the phone's security features would render other iPhones vulnerable to criminals and government authorities around the world. Investigators, meanwhile, are eager to see if the phone used by shooter Syed Farook—one issued by Farook's employer, the county health department—contains any useful information about other suspects.

But the idea that Farook might have used the phone to transmit a "lying-dormant cyber pathogen" into county data systems is a new one. Ramos' office, however, cited it in a court filing Thursday among several other reasons to support the government's position.

"This was a county employee that murdered 14 people and injured 22," Ramos said. "Did he use the county's infrastructure? Did he hack into that infrastructure? I don't know. In order for me to really put that issue to rest, there is one piece of evidence that would absolutely let us know that, and that would be the iPhone."

The argument drew condemnation from one software expert who has signed a brief in support of Apple's position.

"Ramos's statements are not only misleading to the court, but amount to blatant fear mongering," independent software researcher Jonathan Zdziarski wrote in a post on his personal blog .

Other security experts who haven't taken sides also discounted the scenario. "It's definitely possible, technically, but it doesn't seem to me at first glance to be likely," said David Meltzer, a computer security expert and chief research officer at Tripwire, a commercial IT security firm. He said Apple's iPhone operating system is a relatively closed environment that's designed so users can't easily introduce their own programs.

Ramos, meanwhile, said he'd heard about social media posts that mocked the term "cyber pathogen," which is not generally used by tech experts. "When they do that," he said, "they're mocking the victims of this crime, of this horrible terrorist attack."

Nation

Cruz, Trump each grab 2 wins; Dems divide states too

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—In a split decision, Ted Cruz and Donald Trump each captured two victories in Saturday's four-state round of voting, fresh evidence that there's no quick end in sight to the fractious GOP race for president. On the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders notched wins in Nebraska and Kansas, while front-runner Hillary Clinton snagged Louisiana, another divided verdict from the American people.

Cruz claimed Kansas and Maine, and declared it "a manifestation of a real shift in momentum." Trump, still the front-runner in the hunt for delegates, bagged Louisiana and Kentucky. Despite strong support from the GOP establishment, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio had another disappointing night, raising serious questions about his viability in the race.

AP

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks during a rally on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Trump, at a post-election news conference in West Palm Beach, Florida, declared himself primed for a head-on contest between himself and Cruz, and called for Rubio to drop out.

"I would like to take on Ted one-on-one," he said, ticking off a list of big states where he said Cruz had no chance. "That would be so much fun."

Cruz, a tea party favorite, said the results should send a loud message that the GOP contest for the nomination is far from over, and that the status quo is in trouble.

"The scream you hear, the howl that comes from Washington D.C., is utter terror at what we the people are doing together," he declared during a rally in Idaho, which votes in three days.

With the GOP race in chaos, establishment figures frantically are looking for any way to derail Trump, perhaps at a contested convention if no candidate can get enough delegates to lock up the nomination in advance. Party leaders—including 2012 nominee Mitt Romney and 2008 nominee Sen. John McCain—are fearful a Trump victory would lead to a disastrous November election, with losses up and down the GOP ticket.

"Everyone's trying to figure out how to stop Trump," the billionaire marveled at an afternoon rally in Orlando, Florida, where he had supporters raise their hands and swear to vote for him.

West Coast awash in water for first time in a long while

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The first West Coast waves of a week of powerful storms arrived to provide strong evidence March will not be as parched as the month that preceded it.

Steady rain fell in Northern California on Saturday and was expected to go statewide Sunday. Fresh and growing snow blanketed the slopes of the Sierra Nevada, ending a dry spell and raising hopes the drought-stricken state can get much needed precipitation.

Droves of snowboarders, skiers and sledders packed Sierra slopes while tourists braved wet weather and visited San Francisco landmarks before an even more blustery storm arrived later in the day.

"It doesn't matter if it rains, we want to see as much as possible because we only have four days," said Olle Klefbom, a tourist from Sweden wearing rain jackets and holding umbrellas with his family, who waited for a cable car on Saturday afternoon. "We want to go to Alcatraz this afternoon. But if it rains too hard, we'll go shopping instead."

Dozens of arriving flights into San Francisco International Airport were delayed by more than two hours, and dozens more short flights were cancelled, officials said.

California is not the only place expecting severe weather. Conditions are especially ripe for tornadoes in the Southeast and Great Plains. Specifically, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, southern Illinois, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina and parts of Virginia.

Back in the Sierras, the Sugar Bowl ski resort near Donner Summit reported 7 inches of new snow at the summit overnight and slopes full of people Saturday.

AP poll: Americans split over safety of US drinking water

DETROIT (AP)—When it comes to water, only about half of Americans are very confident in the safety of what's flowing from their tap, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll, which found that trust is even weaker among minorities and people with lower incomes.

The lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, has been in the headlines for months, and more than half of Americans believe it's a sign of widespread problems in the U.S. About seven in 10 drink tap water, but about half of them first run it through a filter.

"Of all the water systems in the nation, Flint can't be the only one that's faulty," said Elsbeth Jayne, 28, of Christiansburg, Virginia, who's very comfortable with her own tap water.

Joseph Johnson, 46, of Brooklyn, New York, said he only drinks bottled water, spending about $8 a month on two cases. He's among the 30 percent of Americans choosing water off the shelf.

"I've always been under the assumption that water wasn't 100 percent clean. The Flint situation brought more of the story to the surface," he said Friday.

Flint, with a population of about 100,000, was drawing water from the Flint River for 18 months as a way to save money until a new pipeline to Lake Huron was ready. But the corrosive water leached lead from the city's old plumbing because certain treatments weren't added. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, whose administration repeatedly downplayed the lead threat, now calls it a "disaster."

No level of lead in the human body is considered safe, especially in children. The river water also may have been a source of Legionnaires' disease, which killed at least nine people in the region.

The poll found only 47 percent of Americans say they're extremely or very confident about the safety of their drinking water, while 33 percent say they're moderately confident and 18 percent are not very confident or not at all.

Forty percent of African-Americans polled and 28 percent of Hispanics were less likely than whites—54 percent—to be very confident in their water's safety. Less than 40 percent of households making less than $50,000 are very confident.

ACROSS THE NATION

Rallies for, against Confederate flag duel at Gettysburg

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Supporters and opponents of use of the Confederate flag clashed verbally in opposing demonstrations at Gettysburg National Military Park, with tensions high at times. Cumberland Township police and park officers had to separate a few people Saturday afternoon before disagreements became physical, Hanover's The Evening Sun newspaper reported. The Sons of Confederate Veterans Gettysburg group said its Confederate Flag Day gathering at the park's Eternal Peace Light Monument was intended to honor Southern ancestors. A counter-demonstration was organized by a Gettysburg College associate professor of history and Africana studies, Scott Hancock, who said he wanted to offer a different perspective on the flag's meaning. Other than trading insults and invective, there were few interactions between the opposing groups, which were separated by a few hundred feet and two portable fences.

Denver planning to evict homeless from camps

DENVER (AP)—Officials in Denver are planning to evict people from homeless camps that have popped up around homeless shelters and in public places, saying they pose health and safety risks. Beginning on Tuesday, the city will begin removing items like tarps, used furniture and other property and take the items to a storage facility, where owners will have 30 days to reclaim them. Support groups for the homeless say many people don't want to stay in shelters, even though there is enough room, because they are concerned about sanitation and having their freedom restricted by house rules. "The shelters are not a good place for us," Alexis Ross, 20, told The Denver Post in September. He said they are unclean and full of bedbugs. "That is why we are in the street." Julie Smith, a city spokeswoman, said the city has worked hard to help homeless people find shelter.

Police shooting: Funeral for Alabama man draws 200 mourners

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Pastors urged grieving family and friends to lean on their faith at Saturday's funeral for a 58-year-old black man who authorities say was fatally shot by a white Montgomery police officer. Officer Aaron Smith shot Gregory Gunn in the early hours of Feb. 25, steps from the man's home, according to police. The death roiled the community, which has a history of police violence dating back decades. Family and local leaders initially questioned whether the city could conduct an impartial investigation. Investigators subsequently arrested Smith less than a week later and charged him with murder. Gunn family attorney Tyrone Means called Smith's arrest "progress," though the family has unanswered questions. More than 200 mourners paid homage to Gunn at True Divine Baptist Church in Montgomery. The Rev. Herman Calhoun called on the congregation to pray Gunn's family and also for city officials.

Asia

US man says would be 'lucky' if part he found is from MH370

SEPANG, Malaysia (AP)—An American adventurer said Saturday that it would be a "very lucky discovery" if the piece of aircraft he found on a sandbank off the coast of Mozambique is confirmed to be from the Malaysia Airlines jet that vanished two years ago.

Blaine Gibson, who said he's been searching for Flight 370 over the last year, flew to Malaysia to attend a commemorative ceremony to be held Sunday by families of the 239 people who were on board the plane to mark the second anniversary of its disappearance.

Speaking to The Associated Press upon his arrival at the airport outside of Kuala Lumpur, Gibson said that he had wanted no publicity about his Feb. 27 discovery until after the piece was assessed by investigators, but that news of the finding leaked.

The 58-year-old lawyer from Seattle said he was cautious about the possibility that the part is from the missing Boeing 777 because three large jets had crashed in the area before.

"I'd say it was a very lucky discovery if it turns out to be from Malaysia 370," said Gibson, who was wearing a black T-shirt that read "MH370 Search On."

Even if the piece does not turn out to be from the jet that disappeared on March 8, 2014, Gibson said his discovery could still be useful, perhaps providing clues to another air disaster or raising the public's awareness that the mystery of Flight 370 still has not been solved.

Gibson said he hopes his finding will encourage more people in the area to comb beaches for clues and to hand over any items they think could be passenger belongings or plane debris to authorities to be assessed.

An ongoing search in the southern Indian Ocean has found no trace of the missing plane, though a wing part from the jet washed ashore on Reunion Island in the western Indian Ocean in July.

The new piece of debris is now in the hands of Mozambique civil aviation authorities and is expected to be sent to Australia this coming week to be examined. Australia is leading the search for the jet.

Philippines to impound suspected N. Korean ship, deport crew

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines will impound a suspected North Korean cargo ship docked at a port northwest of Manila and eventually deport its North Korean crewmen in compliance with tough new U.N. Security Council sanctions on Pyongyang over its latest nuclear test and rocket launch, officials said Saturday.

Presidential Communications Undersecretary Manolo Quezon III said the U.N. sanctions would be applied to the MV Jin Teng, which arrived Thursday at Subic Bay, a former U.S. naval base that's now a key commercial port. The ship has 21 North Korean crewmen.

"Our obligation is essentially to impound the vessel and not allow it to leave port and that the crew must eventually be deported," Quezon said in a radio interview.

The 4,355-ton vessel is among 31 ships listed as being North Korean owned and that should be held under an "assets freeze" order, Philippine Foreign Assistant Secretary Gary Domingo said.

It's one of the first known impositions of the toughest Security Council sanctions on the reclusive country in two decades, reflecting growing anger at Pyongyang's recent nuclear test and rocket launch in defiance of a ban on all nuclear-related activity.

Philippine Coast Guard regional commander Raul Belesario, however, told The Associated Press that Jin Teng's papers show that it's a Sierra Leone-flagged ship owned by a company based in the British Virgin Islands and managed by a firm in China's Shandong province.

"On paper, it's not North Korean," he said.

Belesario said that he had not received any government order to impound the ship by Saturday afternoon, but that he would do so if instructed by the government. The vessel needs to stay at Subic for about two to three more days to unload a cargo of palm kernel expeller, which could be used as farm animal feed, he said.

The North Korean crewmen have not been restricted since they arrived and showed their travel papers, Belesario said, adding that there were no available records to check whether the Jin Teng has traveled to North Korea in the past.

Tibetan delegates to China congress wear loyalty pins

BEIJING (AP)—Along with their traditional robes, Tibetan delegates to the annual meeting of China's ceremonial parliament are sporting unique lapel pins displaying their loyalty to the Beijing leadership at a time of simmering tensions in their Himalayan homeland.

New this year and not seen on any other group of delegates, one of the round, inch-wide (2.5 cm-wide) pins shows a Chinese flag and busts of five Chinese leaders, from revolutionary founding father Mao Zedong to current President Xi Jinping. The other shows a smiling Xi visiting with Tibetan people.

"We want to express our gratitude to the Communist Party leadership and State Council, so it's only natural we wear the pin of the leaders of five generations," Hongwei, one of the 18 delegates from the Tibetan Autonomous Region, told The Associated Press at Saturday's opening session of the National People's Congress.

"There have been so many great changes in Tibet," said Hongwei, who like many Tibetans uses just one name. "If we don't thank the party leadership the State Council, if we don't thank the socialist system, who else should we thank?"

The State Council is China's Cabinet, headed by Premier Li Keqiang.

Images of Communist leaders are common in Tibet, which is under much tighter party control than the rest of Chinad due to a history of political volatility, and is generally off-limits to foreign journalists.

The remarks by Hongwei came days after U.S. government-backed Radio Free Asia reported the death of 18-year-old Buddhist monk Kalsang Wangdu after he set himself on fire Monday in the Tibetan area of Ganzi in the western Chinese province of Sichuan, which adjoins Tibet. The area also is known as Kardze in Tibetan. The monk reportedly called for Tibetan independence while he burned.

World

Governor asks Greece to declare state of emergency

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—A regional governor called on the Greek government Saturday to declare a state of emergency for the area surrounding the Idomeni border crossing where thousands of migrants are stranded due to border restrictions along the route toward western Europe.

Some 13,000-14,000 people are trapped in Idomeni, while another 6,000-7,000 are being housed in refugee camps around the region, said Apostolos Tzitzikostas, governor of the Greek region of Central Macedonia. That means the area handles about 60 percent of the total number of migrants in the country.

"It's a huge humanitarian crisis. I have asked the government to declare the area in a state of emergency," Tzitzikostas said during a visit to Idomeni to distribute aid to the Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations. "This cannot continue for much longer."

The neighboring former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia has stopped all but a trickle of Iraqi and Syrian refugees from crossing, following similar restrictions by countries further north on the migration route. The moves have caused a huge bottleneck in Greece, whose islands' proximity to the Turkish coast has made it the preferred entry point for refugees and other migrants seeking better lives in Europe.

AP

Migrants wait on the Greek side of the border near the southern Macedonian town of Gevgelija, Saturday, March 5, 2016. At the moment, some 30,000 refugees and other migrants are stranded in Greece, with about 15,000 at the Idomeni border crossing to Macedonia, according to official estimates.

Secret detentions, deaths raise alarm over Egyptian police

BENI SUEF, Egypt (AP)—The 32-year-old Egyptian government engineer disappeared in mid-January when, according to witnesses, masked police burst into his office in the southern city of Beni Suef and dragged him off in handcuffs in front of his co-workers.

Mohammed Hamdan's family searched for him for 15 days, filing a formal complaint over his detention and asking at police stations—only to be told by every official that he was never arrested.

On Jan. 25, he turned up dead. But police gave a very different story: The Interior Ministry announced that security forces killed Hamdan in a gun-battle that day while raiding a farmhouse where he was hiding. It said Hamdan, a Muslim Brotherhood member, was behind previous killings of policemen. His family was summoned to the morgue, where they found his body riddled with bullets.

"They arrested him, killed him, sent the body to the morgue, wrote the report, sealed the case and gave me a body to bury," Hamdan's father, Qenawi Hamdan, told The Associated Press, speaking in his mud-brick house in the village of Beni Suleiman outside the city of Beni Suef.

"I can't fight the government," the 67-year-old said.

WORLD BRIEFS

NASA: Drought in 1998-2012 in Mideast worst in 900 years

JERUSALEM (AP)—A recent, 14-year dry spell in the Middle East was the worst drought in the past 900 years, according to a new NASA study released this week. NASA's researchers examined records of rings of trees in several Mediterranean countries to determine patterns of dry and wet years across a span of 900 years. They concluded that the years from 1998 to 2012 were drier than any other period, and that the drought was likely caused by humans. The study's lead author Ben Cook said the range of extreme weather events in the eastern Mediterranean has varied widely in the past nine centuries, but the past two decades stand out. "This recent drought falls outside the range of natural variability," he said. Drought has continued in parts of the Middle East, he added. Cook is a climate scientist at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University in New York City.

12 killed when gunmen open fire in Honduran pool hall

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Authorities say that assailants armed with AK-47 assault rifles burst into a pool hall in Honduras' capital and opened fire, killing at least 12 people and wounding three others. Police spokesman Edgardo Barahona said at least three of the five attackers were wearing police uniforms and bullet-proof vests in Saturday's attack in Tegucigalpa's violent northern 1 de Diciembre neighborhood. The victims ranged in age from 19 to 30. Police said the pool hall was controlled by the Barrio 18 gang and there were about 30 people in it at the time. No arrests have been made. The massacre took place a year after a similar shooting in a nearby pool hall left five people dead. Honduras is plagued by gang and cartel violence, and has among world's highest murder rates.

Focus

Hijackers? Aliens? Theories over Flight 370's fate abound

KRISTEN GELINEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this April 7, 2014 file photo, Malaysians gather during a candlelight vigil for passengers onboard the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. From a hijacking to an alien abduction, countless theories have arisen about the fate of the Malaysian airliner that disappeared nearly two years ago.

SYDNEY (AP)—From a hijacking to an alien abduction, countless theories have arisen about the fate of the Malaysian airliner that disappeared nearly two years ago.

With search crews just months away from finishing their thus-far fruitless sweep of a remote stretch of seabed where Flight 370 is believed to have crashed, officials appear no closer to solving one of the most mind-boggling mysteries of modern times. That stubborn lack of resolution has only increased speculation about what might have happened to the Boeing 777 after it vanished with 239 people on board on March 8, 2014. Some believe officials are simply looking in the wrong part of the Indian Ocean, while social media sites are peppered with comments suggesting they're looking on the wrong planet: "MH370 was abducted by aliens," reads a typical tweet.

"We knew this was a very high-profile, publicized event and because it was such a great mystery, there was going to be a lot of scrutiny," says the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's chief commissioner Martin Dolan, who is leading the search for the plane far off Australia's west coast. "We are always open to informed criticism. What we find a bit more difficult is when occasionally people criticize us on the basis of a misunderstanding or a misrepresentation of what we're doing or saying."

Here's a look at a few of the theories that investigators have considered but view as unlikely:

THE PLANE WENT NORTH INSTEAD OF SOUTH

After veering off-course shortly after takeoff on its flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, officials believe the plane flew south on a straight path into the abyss of the southern Indian Ocean. They arrived at that conclusion after analyzing exchanges between the plane's engine and a satellite. But some people insist the plane instead flew north into Asia, and that the satellite data indicating otherwise was tampered with.

Dolan dismisses that theory, noting that British satellite company Inmarsat, which provided the satellite data to investigators, is a widely respected company with a solid track record. There's no reason to doubt their data, he says.

"Those sorts of theories just seem to overcomplicate what's going on here," Dolan says. "We think that had any data been manipulated, there would have been a trace of it."

Beyond that, a wing part from the plane washed ashore on Reunion Island in the western Indian Ocean in July, effectively eliminating the possibility that the rest of the plane ended up in the Northern Hemisphere. That said, a few people have suggested the wing flap was planted on the island by terrorists.

IT WENT WEST TO THE MALDIVES

Some argue the plane must have traveled west to the remote Indian Ocean island nation of the Maldives after early reports emerged of locals spotting a low-flying plane in the area around the time Flight 370 vanished.

The military in the Maldives told Malaysia that those reports of sightings turned out to be false. Last year, Malaysian investigators traveled to the Maldives to examine possible debris that had washed ashore, but it was determined to be unrelated to Flight 370.

Former Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss has said that while the plane may have had enough fuel to reach the islands, it wasn't detected by air traffic control or any other local authority. The flight path to the Maldives is also inconsistent with investigators' satellite and radar data.

"It is not considered a likely possibility," Truss said last year.

IT WAS SHOT DOWN

One of the earliest theories suggested the plane was headed toward Diego Garcia, a British atoll in the Indian Ocean where the U.S. has a military base. The former head of the now-defunct Proteus Airlines, Marc Dugain, voiced his own theory that U.S. military, fearing a Sept. 11-style attack, may have shot down the plane as it approached the atoll. The U.S. has denied the aircraft came anywhere near Diego Garcia.

IT WAS HIJACKED BY PASSENGERS

Immediately after the plane disappeared, many speculated that one or more passengers hijacked the plane. This theory gained traction after it was discovered that two Iranians on board were traveling on stolen passports. Investigators cleared the two after finding nothing linking them to terror groups; it is believed they were trying to illegally immigrate to Europe. Police scrutinized the backgrounds of every passenger on the plane—but nothing suspicious was found.

First things to be raised if MH370 found: More questions

By KRISTEN GELINEAU and JOAN LOWY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—If Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is ever found, the wreckage will immediately present a host of new questions before it's likely to provide answers about the plane's disappearance nearly two years ago.

What will be recovered? Who will pay for it? How much evidence has already been lost forever? Here are some key issues that will crop up if the plane is located:

MUCH COULD REMAIN IN OCEAN

Given that the Boeing 777 is believed to be in waters as deep as 6.5 kilometers (4 miles), there are no plans to bring the entire plane to the surface, said Martin Dolan, chief commissioner of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is running the search. Crews will instead focus on retrieving the parts of the aircraft that are most likely to yield clues into its fate, such as the "black box" data and voice recorders, and the remains of the 239 passengers and crew.

JOINT EFFORT

Australia would be in charge of any recovery effort, but because that would involve victim identification and retrieval, it would work closely with Malaysia, which is in charge of the investigation. Black boxes and other aircraft parts would be taken to ATSB headquarters in the Australian capital, Canberra, where Malaysian and Australian experts would analyze the data.

FUNDS AVAILABLE, FOR NOW

There are still enough funds in the budget Australia set aside for the search to fund the recovery, said Dolan. But if the plane is discovered when that budget has run dry, Australia will have to confer with other countries to figure out how to pay what would be a complex effort requiring specialized equipment.

The ATSB has gathered a list of companies with equipment capable of retrieving wreckage from the seabed. Crews would need to photograph and map the debris field, then get the specialized vessels and crews to the remote search site. All of that will take a couple of months.

BLACK BOXES HAVE LIMITS

If the black boxes are recovered, the data recorder should reveal details related to the plane's controls, including whether aircraft systems that might have helped track the plane were deliberately turned off, as some investigators theorize. But data recorders won't necessarily reveal who took those actions and why.

Conversations captured by the cockpit voice recorder could reveal more about what happened, but the device aboard the lost Boeing 777 could hold only the last two hours of recordings. Information from early in the flight was likely erased. That flight recorder exceeded the international standard at the time.

Airliners built after Jan. 1, 2021, must be equipped with 25-hour voice recorders capable recording the entire flight under new rules recently approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. agency that sets global aviation standards. However, there is no requirement to retrofit existing planes with longer recorders.

Health & Fitness

Let your boss track your fitness, get an Apple Watch

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—You know you need to exercise more, but there's always next week, or the week after. To entice you to stop procrastinating, your company or insurer might soon reward you for wearing a fitness device to track your steps, heart rate and more.

For instance, in one program announced Wednesday, some workers can buy a $350 Apple Watch for just $25 by meeting exercise goals for two years. Miss goals, and see your discount shrink. Vitality, a provider of disease-prevention and lifestyle programs, is initially bringing the offer to U.S. employees at three companies, along with John Hancock life-insurance customers. It has been testing the program in South Africa since December.

Other programs let you redeem points from fitness activities for gift cards and other rewards. Submit to biometric screenings and nutrition classes, and in some cases you can earn insurance discounts.

"We all live busy lives, but the truth is, if doctors could write one prescription for the world, it would be activity," says Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer.

Adrian Gore, CEO and founder of Vitality parent company Discovery Group, says that for many people, the benefits from exercise might not be apparent for a few decades. Reward programs make the payoff more immediate.

Programs like these are still new, but appear to be expanding as part of broader changes in the health care marketplace.

On Tuesday, health insurer UnitedHealthcare started offering up to $1,460 a year in credits toward deductibles for meeting daily goals while wearing a custom tracker. Oscar, which sells health insurance directly to consumers, has been giving out free Misfit trackers for opportunities to earn up to $100 a year in Amazon gift cards. Fitbit works with employers such as Indiana University Health and Emory University in Atlanta to subsidize fitness trackers for their staff.

"I love playing sports, but doing cardio stuff isn't my favorite," says Brett Broviak, 43, an IU Health employee in Noblesville, Indiana.

He says getting a discounted Fitbit pushed him to walk 1 million steps a month.

These programs are typically voluntary, but you must be willing to share data to earn the most rewards and insurance discounts.

Sound creepy? Program officials say that data from fitness trackers typically go to outside administrators, such as Fitbit or Vitality. Employers and insurers get only broad totals to verify eligibility and not details on heart rate and sleep. But participants need to trust that these systems won't get hacked.

Mike Doughty, president and general manager of John Hancock Insurance, says premiums won't rise if a screening uncovers higher blood pressure or other risks. Rather, he says, wellness incentives are about promoting longer lives - and collecting life-insurance premiums longer.

AP
Mark Holloway of Clemmons, N.C., goes through part of his exercise routine at the Jerry Long YMCA in Clemmons, Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Holloway got a $350 Apple Watch for just $25 by meeting exercise goals for two years. The program was offered through three U.S. companies.

There's no proof that providing fitness trackers directly lowers health care costs, but there's plenty of evidence that exercise leads to better health, which in turn can improve productivity and reduce absences. Michael Staufacker, Emory's director of health management, describes the thinking as a "value of investment and not a hard-dollar return on investment as it relates to medical or pharmacy costs."

More importantly, reaching daily exercise goals is just the beginning of getting people to think more about their health. "If I exercise regularly, then junk food just doesn't appeal to me," says Mark Holloway, 55, of Clemmons, North Carolina, who participates in Vitality's wellness program through his employer, Lockton. "French fries and hamburgers? No, thanks. It's like putting sand in your gas tank."

Programs from Vitality and others typically won't let you earn insurance discounts simply by exercising. You'll need to earn additional points by completing questionnaires and getting flu shots. You sometimes get bonus points simply by staying within recommended limits for cholesterol, blood pressure and other measures. Smokers can also get points for joining programs to help them quit.

"You change one thing about your behavior, and you can be more motivated to work on these other aspects," says Tammy Smith, who manages the employee wellness program at IU Health.

DaVita HealthCare Partners says health care spending by its employees slowed significantly after it offered tracker-based incentives through Vitality. But DaVita also increased the deductible on claims and started such initiatives as Fresh Fruit Wednesday. That makes the effect of the fitness program difficult to isolate.

With the Apple Watch program, you must pay back Vitality each month you miss your fitness goals, which typically call for four substantial workouts a week. The goals are meant to be achievable, but tough enough to change habits. You can get more expensive Apple Watch models by paying the difference.

An iPhone is required; Vitality has no current plans to offer anything similar for Android. Neither Apple nor Vitality would provide financial details on the arrangement.

CDC: Superbugs cause 1 in 7 infections caught in hospitals

NEW YORK (AP)—Supergerms cause 1 out of 7 infections caught in hospitals, health officials said Thursday.

The bugs include the staph infection MRSA (MUR'-suh) and five other bacteria resistant to many kinds of antibiotics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

That leaves hospitals with few—if any—medicines to fight dangerous infections in already-sick patients. "That's the scary thing," said Tim Landers, an Ohio State University expert on antibiotic-resistant infections.

Hospital-spread infections have long been a problem. The CDC estimates that on any given day, 1 in 25 patients have an infection that they picked up in the hospital. Officials have been pushing hospitals to do a better job keeping infections in check, with the government's Medicare program cutting payments to the worst hospitals.

The CDC looked at data from thousands of U.S. hospitals from 2008 through 2014, focusing on infections tied to certain surgical procedures and use of catheters.

It found superbugs caused 1 in 7 of the infections caught in general hospitals but 1 in 4 in specialized long-term hospitals.

The agency's director, Dr. Tom Frieden, called the long-term statistic especially "chilling." Those patients often have been under medical treatment for longer periods and have had more opportunity to be exposed to superbug infections, officials said.

Antibiotics became widely available in the 1940s, and today are used to kill or suppress the bacteria behind everything form strep throat to the plague. But as decades passed, some antibiotics stopped working. Experts say their overuse and misuse have helped make them less effective. Health officials have been raising alarms about it for years.

Fighting the problem requires more careful and judicious use of antibiotics, Frieden said.

"Doctors are the key to stamping out superbugs," Frieden said.

The report offered some good news: The rate of overall infection did continue to fall for certain surgical sites and catheters.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Virginia Norita Mahora

Born: December 27, 1953 | Died: February 29, 2016

Lovingly known as "Ginny"

In her new life, she is now reunited with her:

Husband: †Mathias Daniel Mahora
Stepdaughter: †Lima A. Mahora
Parents: †Pedro N. and †Victorina L. Norita
Parents-in-law: †Daniel and †Ived S. Mahora
Brothers: †David L. Norita, †Manuel L. Norita, †Pedro L. Norita, †Victorino Nekai Igitol
Sister-in-law: †Estella I. Norita

Precious memories and lasting love will forever be in the hearts of her:

Children: Esther N. Mahora
Al and Leslie V. Mahora (Sharlei/Lexy Jade)
Bert and Arlene S. Laniyo
Paula N. Mahora (Lonalyn, Nicole, Lima)
Mathias D. Mahora, Jr. (Matiana Niohmi, Zuliana Evette)
Reared Children: Leonard N. Fred, Ana Consolacion L. Norita, Erwin N. Fred, Jr.

Sisters/Brothers/Spouses: Vicente L. Norita/Silveria (Zeniva, Benjamin, Shauna, Victorino, Rufina, Richard, Monica)
Donald L. Norita (Gabriel)
Remedio L. Norita (†Maria Virginia)
Consolacion N. Cepeda/Alvin Joseph (Airrian, Victoria, Jaedyn, Alvonnie, Segundo)
Dina Ellen N. Kaliga/Nolasko (†Lucy Victoria, Travis Jude)

Additionally survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, Relatives and Friends.

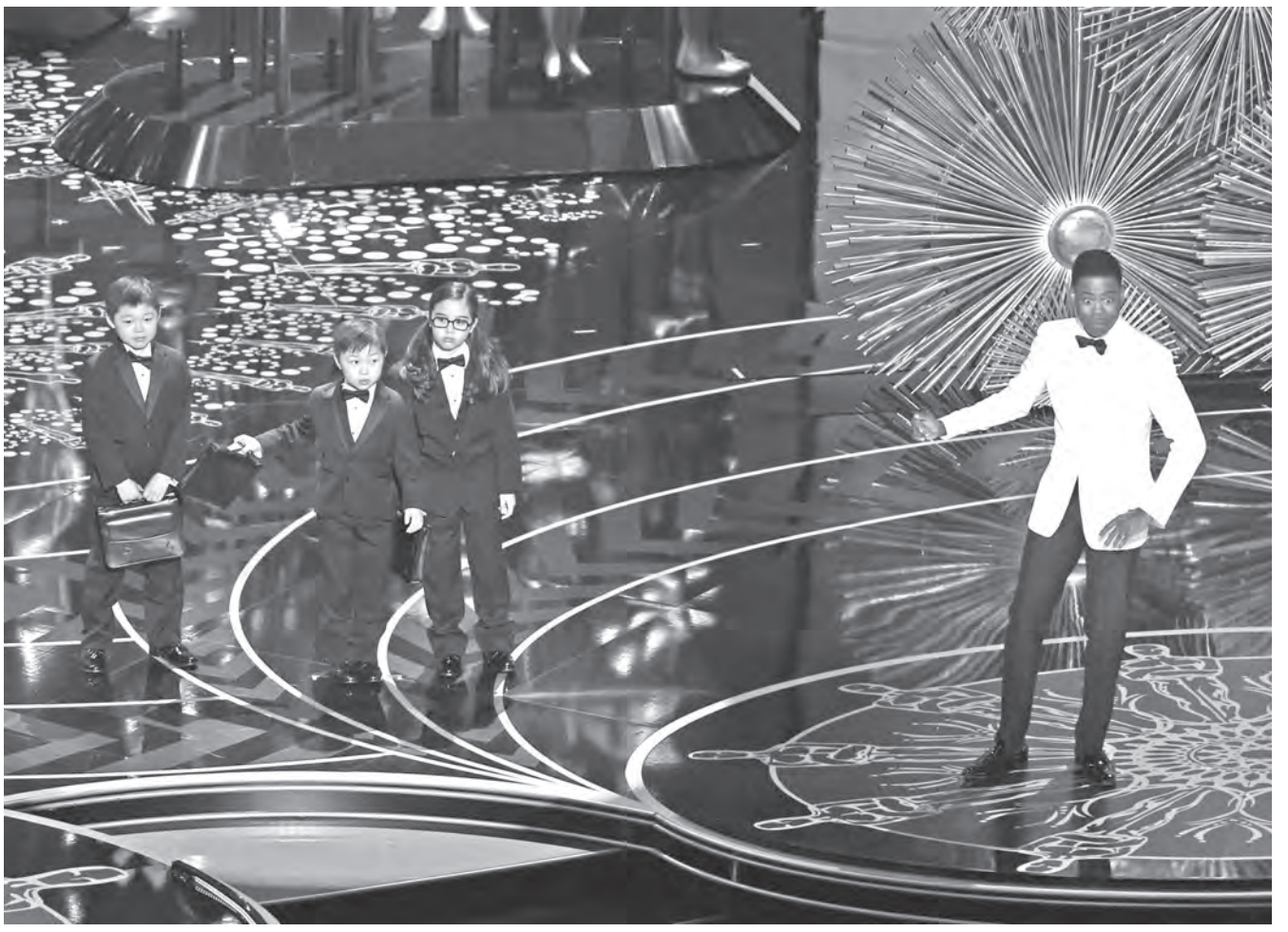
Mass at 6pm followed by rosary at 7pm at Bithen Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag.
On Tuesday, March 8th, 2016, †Virginia's remains will leave Borja's Funeral Home at 9:30am to Bithen Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Rosary will be at 10am followed by the Funeral Mass at 11am.

Ghillisou, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you

From the Family

Life & Style

Asian-American jab at Oscars reveals deeper diversity woes



AP
In this Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 file photo, host Chris Rock, right, gestures to three unidentified children portraying auditors in a skit at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV's "Fresh Off the Boat" creator Nahnatchka Khan was reveling in Oscar host Chris Rock's deft comedic assault on white-fixated Hollywood. Then three Asian-American kids were brought onstage for a gag mocking them as ethnic stereotypes.

"It's like going on a road trip with your fun friend, and halfway to Vegas he pulls over and shoots you in the leg," Khan said, recalling her reaction to last weekend's ceremony. "It was completely shocking and just so unnecessary."

Rock's skit ignited an outcry from Asian-Americans and others angered by its stereotyping and, more broadly, frustrated by how non-black minorities are portrayed—or ignored—by Hollywood, especially movie studios.

The response also has illuminated the gap between African-Americans, who have made some on-screen gains, and the lagging progress by other minorities, including Asian-American, Latinos and Native Americans.

Phil Yu, who observes Hollywood as part of his Angry Asian Man blog, said he welcomed the #OscarsSoWhite protest against this year's all-white slate of acting nominees. But, as in years past, Yu said he was struck anew by the greater challenge Asian-Americans face.

"When I watch the Oscars as an Asian-American, I think, 'It must be kind of nice to be disappointed that there were roles to be overlooked.' I wonder what that feeling is like, because I can name no Asian-Americans that were in contention," he said.

That perception is borne out by a comprehensive study released last month by the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

At least half of all TV or streamed projects from September 2014 to August 2015 and of the 2014 films studied lacked even one speaking or named Asian or Asian-American character, the study found. By comparison, 22 percent didn't include any such roles for black characters. Of lead characters that were minorities in 100-plus movies, nearly 66 percent were black and 6.3 percent were Asian.

In the U.S. population, African-Americans are a greater percentage, 12.3 percent, to about 5 percent for Asians.

But Rock's attack on the industry's diversity failures was fully black-centric, from one-liners to Black History Month skits. Then came the tuxedoed Asian-American kids, whom Rock presented as the "dedicated, accurate" accounting team that tallied Oscar votes, adding, "If anybody's upset about that joke, just tweet about it on your phone, which was also made by these kids."

Basketball player Jeremy Lin did just that. "Seriously though, when is this going to change?!? Tired of it being "cool" and "ok" to bash Asians," he posted on his Twitter account.

Rock declined a follow-up interview through his publicist. And the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, as well as the ceremony's producers, did not respond to requests for comment.

Rock had company at the Oscars. Presenter Sacha Baron Cohen, in character as Ali G, made a sexually demeaning crack about "little yellow people." Despite his pretense of talking about Minions, the cartoon characters, it was considered a slap at Asians.

Such humor, especially from the host, made the evening's "relentlessly black and white" take on diversity even more disheartening, said Daniel Mayeda, co-chair of the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition. To an extent, that dual focus parallels the movie industry itself.

"There have been significant changes in television. Film is way behind," said Mayeda, whose group is part of an umbrella organization, the Multi-Ethnic Media Coalition, that's prodded the TV industry since 2000 to boost minority hiring and last month announced it was targeting movie studios to do likewise.

He and other coalition leaders have said the quest for opportunity should not pit minorities against one another and that Hollywood must make room for all groups.

'Prince of Tides' author Pat Conroy lauded after death at 70

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Author Pat Conroy, whose beloved works "The Great Santini" and "The Prince of Tides" are set against the vistas of the South Carolina coast that was his home, was lauded Saturday as a great chronicler of the human condition and a humble and loving soul.

Conroy, 70, died Friday at his home in Beaufort, about an hour south of Charleston, surrounded by family and friends at the time, according to his publisher.

The heavy-set author died less than a month after announcing on Facebook that he was battling cancer. He promised to "fight it hard" and told his fans "I owe you a novel and I intend to deliver it."

A funeral mass will be held Tuesday at Saint Peter's Catholic Church in Beaufort with a private burial afterward.

Barbra Streisand, who starred in and directed the movie version of Conroy's "The Prince of Tides" posted a picture of herself with Conroy on Instagram on Saturday. The 1991 movie starring Streisand and Nick Nolte earned seven Oscar nominations, including best picture.

"He was generous and kind, humble and loving ... such a joy to work with. I was so honored that he entrusted his beautiful book to me," she said in a statement from her publicist. "Pat's natural language was poetry ... he wrote sentences that are like an incantation."

While Conroy had been ill in recent weeks, last October the University of South Carolina Beaufort held a 3-day literary festival featuring Conroy and discussions of his work and included a screening of "The Great Santini." The event culminated with a 70th birthday party in his honor.

"The water is wide and he has now passed over," his wife, novelist Cassandra Conroy, said in a statement from publisher Doubleday.

AP
In this Oct. 20, 2000 file photo, author Pat Conroy receives an honorary doctor of letters degree during a ceremony on the parade grounds of The Citadel, in Charleston, S.C.

Nan A. Talese, Conroy's longtime editor and publisher, said that the late author "will be cherished as one of America's favorite and bestselling writers, and I will miss him terribly."

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg, who had known Conroy most of his adult life called him "the great chronicler of the time and place that I call home. He saw it with clarity. He wrote of it with purpose."

Conroy, who sold 20 million books worldwide, candidly and expansively shared details of growing up as a military brat and his anguished relationship with his abusive father, Marine aviator and military hero Donald Conroy. He also wrote of his time in military school, The Citadel in Charleston, and his struggles with his health and depression.

"The reason I write is to explain my life to myself," Conroy said in a 1986 interview. "I've also discovered that when I do, I'm explaining other people's lives to them."

Jury selected in Hulk Hogan-Gawker civil trial

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—A jury has been selected in the civil trial between pro wrestler Hulk Hogan and a popular news website.

Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, is suing Gawker for $100 million for publishing a sex tape of him and the wife of a Tampa radio personality.

Opening statements begin Monday. The six-member jury will determine if Gawker violated Hogan's right to privacy when it published the video of the former professional wrestler having sex with his best friend's wife. Hogan's attorneys say it garnered 7 million views.

Gawker says the publication was a legitimate scoop because Hogan had talked openly about his sex life before, in forums such as Howard Stern's radio show.

According to Hogan, the video was made without his knowledge.

Leslie Jones reacts to criticism of 'Ghostbusters' character

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Leslie Jones ain't afraid of no ghost—or playing a transit worker.

The co-star of the upcoming all-female version of "Ghostbusters" took to Twitter to defend her role as a member of the paranormal-fighting group who appears in footage released Thursday to be an employee of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

AP

In this Sept. 6, 2014, file photo, actress Leslie Jones poses at the "Top Five" premiere at the Princess of Wales Theatre during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

The portrayal of the team's only non-white member as a subway worker in filmmaker Paul Feig's new "Ghostbusters" came under fire on social media after the trailer debuted online.

"Why can't a regular person be a Ghostbuster?" the African-American actress-comedienne posted on Twitter. "I'm confused. And why can't I be the one who plays them? I am a performer. Just go see the movie!"

Jones' character Patty teams up to fight ghosts and other apparitions in the film with Kristen Wiig's particle physicist Erin, Melissa McCarthy's paranormal researcher Abby and Kate McKinnon's nuclear engineer Jillian.

In one scene, Jones' character tells them, "You guys are really smart about this science stuff, but I know New York—and I can borrow a car from my uncle."

A poster for the character released earlier this year referred to Patty as a "ghost tracker, municipal historian, metaphysical commando."

Kesha chokes up at award dinner, thanks supporters

AP

Kesha, recipient of the Visibility award, speaks at the 21st Annual HRC Nashville Equality Dinner at the Renaissance Hotel on Saturday, March 5, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Pop star Kesha, who says her producer sexually and psychologically abused her, choked up after accepting an award for her stance against harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth.

The Human Rights Campaign Nashville on Saturday presented the pop singer with their Visibility Award, which recognized her for using her spotlight to speak out against bullying of LGBT youth.

The honor comes just after the pop singer lost an initial request last month to be freed from her contract with hitmaker Dr. Luke, who denies her claims and says she is smearing him to get out of her contract.

"As many of you know I am going through some personal things that have been really intense and hard lately and I just want to say thank you for the support I have received," she told the audience during a dinner in Nashville, Tennessee, where she grew up.

In a sworn statement in August, Kesha said that the producer, born Lukasz Gottwald, raped her a decade ago after giving her a pill that knocked her out and bullied her to lose weight.

Sheen seeks to cut $55,000-a-month child support payment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen recently sold his profit participation rights to comedy series "Two and a Half Men" for nearly $27 million, the actor disclosed in a court filing seeking to cut child support payments for his twin sons.

Sheen's filing Wednesday seeks to alter his divorce settlement with ex-wife Brooke Mueller. It states his income has changed significantly and he wants to change the $55,000-a month minimum monthly child support payments for his 6-year-old boys.

The actor sold his profit rights to "Two and a Half Men," which was once television's top-rated comedy and continues to air on replays, for $26.7 million. The sale occurred in the past year, the filing states.

Sheen's filing estimates a cut in his monthly income from more than $600,000-a-month down to nearly $167,000 as a result of the sale. He lists more than $12 million in debts, the majority of which is owed on mortgages, taxes, and legal fees.

The actor disclosed in November that he has HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, but has said he's healthy due to a rigorous drug regimen. His last major project was the FX comedy "Anger Management," which aired from 2012 to 2014.

AP

In this April 11, 2013, file photo, Charlie Sheen, a cast member in "Scary Movie V," poses at the Los Angeles premiere of the film at the Cinerama Dome in Los Angeles.

Rapper Bankroll Fresh killed at recording Atlanta studio

ATLANTA (AP)—A coroner investigator says an up-and-coming rapper has been shot to death outside a popular recording studio in Atlanta.

Fulton County Medical Examiner senior investigator Tami Sedivy-Schorder says 28-year-old Trentavious White, also known as rapper Bankroll Fresh, was found shot outside Street Execs Studio around 11 p.m. Friday.

Atlanta police say White was pronounced dead at a hospital. Police told local news media they collected more than 50 shell casings inside and outside the recording studio.

White was signed to rapper 2 Chainz's Street Execs record label. White was known for his single "Hot Boy" and "Walked In" featuring Travis Porter, Boochie and Street Money.

Several rappers from T.I. and 2 Chainz sent their condolences for White through social media.

Couple's divergent interests may result in future split

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 12 years and I have few common interests. I am earthy, nature-loving, people-loving and crave a rural lifestyle. He's an introvert, loves everything Western, enjoys his downtime and watches a lot of television. He dislikes animals and is a sports fanatic.

I don't criticize his interests. I allow him his hobbies. My problem is, our dreams of the future can't be combined. My off-the-grid homestead and his 70-inch TV don't exactly fit.

It's depressing that we don't appreciate each other's interests, and doing all of our hobbies separately is lonely. How can I experience my dreams when they are not my husband's dreams?

HIPPIE JANE IN PROVO, UTAH

DEAR HIPPIE JANE: Try doing that by remembering what you had in common with your husband 13 years ago. Is the core of your relationship still a good one? Couples don't have to be joined at the hip 24/7. Can't each of you enjoy your hobbies and interests separately? Many couples do.

However, if the answer is that you have grown increasingly apart in the last 12 years, the only way you can each experience your dreams may be to do it alone or with other like-minded people.

DEAR ABBY: I am deathly afraid of snakes! My daughter, who lives in Canada, recently informed me that they had acquired one through a teacher at my grandsons' school. Of course, the three boys are thrilled.

My problem is, we are going to visit my daughter and her family in a few weeks. I am terrified to the point of losing sleep and breaking down crying just thinking about it. What should I do? I want to see my family, but there is no house big enough for me AND a snake. Please help.

TERRIFIED IN CYPRESS, TEXAS

DEAR TERRIFIED: If you were planning to stay at your daughter's, scale back your plans and reserve a room at a nearby hotel or motel. This will give you eight or 10 hours a day nowhere near the reptile. If your daughter is unaware of your phobia, put her on notice that the snake is to be confined to its cage in a room with a firmly closed door while you are in the house—and further, you do not wish to make its acquaintance.

Talk to your doctor before you go and ask for enough anti-anxiety medication to calm your nerves while you are there. Then go and have a good time.

DEAR ABBY: We took my wealthy daughter, husband and their four children to dinner at a very nice restaurant. We insisted on paying. In fact, we even restricted what we ordered so they could each have an expensive dish that they only picked at.

When it was over and it was obvious that they weren't taking home any leftovers, I started to motion to our waitress to ask for take-home boxes so my wife and I could take all of their uneaten food. My wife shot me the "don't you dare!" look, so all of it wound up in a dumpster. Needless to say, it became an issue. Was I wrong to want to take home their uneaten meals?

PEEVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PEEVED: Not as far as I'm concerned. Because your daughter and her family didn't like what they ordered—and you were footing the bill -- there was no breach of etiquette in asking for a box for the leftovers.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

BOY, IS IT COLD!
YOU SHOULD GET A GOOD FUR COAT LIKE MINE.
WOOF! WHAT DID YOU EAT FOR BREAKFAST? CEMENT?
LOOK, WAS THIS MY IDEA?
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY GUMBO. WANNA GO WORK OUT WITH ME IN THE GARAGE?
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A FITNESS BUDDY TO HELP KEEP YOU ACCOUNTABLE.
WHINE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. HAVING A PRE-FITNESS SNACK BUDDY IS ALSO IMPORTANT.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
EXTRA SPICY

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

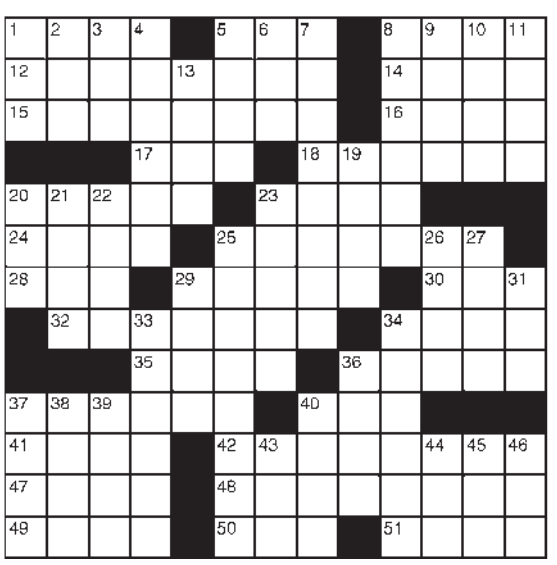
ACROSS
1 Carrots' mates
5 Scale notes
8 Bakery buy
12 Squid entree
14 Canal of song
15 Hiker's snack
16 Dalai —
17 Back talk
18 Followed (a suspect)
20 Email receptacle
23 Memory unit
24 Char
25 Append
28 Yoga pad
29 "Eat!"
30 Realty ad abbr.
32 Bird that rose from its ashes
34 Clock face
35 — Placid
36 Pushy
37 Spinning dizzily
40 London mist
41 Actor Schreiber
42 Amelia Earhart, for one
47 Baseball's Tommie
48 19th-century British prime minister
49 Pen fillers
50 Even so
51 Leaves

DOWN
1 Agt.'s cut
2 Corn spike
3 Chicken — king
4 Gob
5 Genie's home
6 "Entourage" character
7 "Get your kicks on Route —"
8 Aspirin's promise
9 Spoken
10 Rickey flavor
11 Show the way
13 Cato's 1059
19 Envelope abbr.
20 Doctrine
21 Tide type
22 Tub session
23 Humphrey, to Bacall
25 Gin-and-grenadine cocktail
26 Purple flower
27 Dec. holiday
29 Near partner
31 Crafty
33 Martini garnishes
34 GI's ID
36 Piglet's pop
37 Jai —
38 Billboard
39 Seven days
40 Pugilist's weapon
43 Compete
44 Old Oldsmobile
45 — -de-France
46 Greek consonants

Solution time: 26 mins.

L	A	G	■	B	E	A	D	■	M	A	C	S
I	L	L	■	E	L	I	E	■	E	X	P	O
S	P	I	T	T	I	R	E	■	R	E	A	L
T	C	B	O	C	T	■	P	A	C	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	G	F	■	S	P	I	F	F	Y
A	B	Y	S	S	■	Z	I	P	■	E	R	A
R	O	O	T	■	P	A	X	■	A	T	A	N
I	O	G	■	G	A	P	■	O	R	A	N	G
S	P	I	D	E	R	■	S	C	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	U	M	A	■	W	E	E	V	I	L
S	K	I	M	■	S	P	I	L	L	A	N	E
A	I	D	A	■	O	S	L	O	■	I	T	A
X	M	A	S	■	I	I	I	T	■	N	O	D

Friday's answer 2 - 29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Laura Prepon, 36; Jenna Fischer, 42; Rachel Weisz, 46; Bryan Cranston, 60.

Happy Birthday: Keep moving forward. You cannot change the past. Use your experience to achieve better results. Size up each situation you face, and you will figure out the best way to reach your goal. Choose your friends, peers and partners for the right reasons, and the support and insight you receive will encourage you to reach for the stars. Your numbers are 5, 8, 17, 23, 28, 35, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Follow your heart and bring about the changes you deem necessary. Rely on your instincts to help you make choices that will influence your future and add to your security. Progressive actions will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Refuse to let your emotions get in the way of good judgment. Let your intuition guide you, and you'll avoid being taken for granted. Don't wait for something good to happen. Take the initiative and be the driving force. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Focus inward and make personal changes that are geared toward advancement. Relying on others could be a mistake. Take care of business and you'll avoid disappointment. Use diplomacy and strive for perfection, and you'll stop someone from sabotaging your plans. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick to your agenda. Don't worry about what someone else is doing. You don't have to follow the crowd. Doing things your way will help you stand out and impress someone who will want to collaborate with you. Expand your interests. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Deal with money and health matters intuitively. Take responsibility when it comes to money matters, settlements and negotiations. Take on a physical challenge instead of letting uncertainty take over. Romance will lead to future plans and greater stability. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Show compassion when dealing with others and you will avoid arguments. Talks will lead to an interesting proposition, but before you make an impulsive move, question the motives behind the offer. Don't overreact when a simple "yes" or "no" is all that's required. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep the peace. You'll be far more effective if you are diplomatic. Put more emphasis on self-awareness and being your very best, and less on trying to change others. Love and romance will ease your stress and improve your day. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Socializing with friends or hosting a get-together will help you connect with the people you want to spend more time with. Share your ideas and you will find people who want to tag along on your journey. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Making assumptions or believing everything you hear will be your downfall. Get your facts straight and don't give away personal information that might be used against you. Self-improvement projects will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't feel obligated to pay for others or to donate money toward responsibilities that belong to someone else. You'll benefit the most by getting back to your own plans for the future. If you don't like something, say so. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): High energy combined with hard work will help you reach whatever goal you set. Whether it has to do with getting ahead professionally or raising your profile by offering to do more than what's expected of you, it will help you gain recognition. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Listen to advice, but don't feel pressure to do exactly what others think you should do. You have to consider the uniqueness of your situation and let your instincts lead you down the path that makes the most sense to you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have charisma, insight and passion. You are adaptable and forward-thinking.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7				9	4		
		5				3		6
1	8	4		6		9	2	
7			6		5			
		3				8		
			2		8			9
	4	2		7		6	3	5
5		7				1		
		9	3				4	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	8	1	9	5	4	6	2
6	1	2	4	8	3	5	9	7
9	4	5	6	7	2	1	3	8
1	6	3	8	5	7	2	4	9
2	7	9	3	4	1	8	5	6
5	8	4	2	6	9	3	7	1
8	9	1	7	3	4	6	2	5
3	2	7	5	1	6	9	8	4
4	5	6	9	2	8	7	1	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/01

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PINBALL MACHINES Solution: 8 letters

S	S	E	E	T	O	O	H	S	H	I	E	L	D	S
T	T	Y	L	B	A	T	S	D	N	U	O	S	S	E
E	A	E	D	D	M	A	G	I	C	P	O	S	T	K
G	T	S	N	E	L	L	I	G	H	T	S	U	A	I
R	I	L	A	G	T	S	L	I	O	C	H	E	N	R
A	O	L	H	R	A	A	F	T	L	C	M	F	D	T
T	N	U	O	E	S	M	G	A	E	A	N	O	U	S
T	A	B	L	E	E	R	O	L	G	N	I	R	P	S
O	R	I	E	S	V	D	E	R	I	W	A	C	S	P
P	Y	S	S	P	I	C	A	V	T	P	R	E	Y	I
S	E	N	A	L	T	U	O	C	O	C	D	R	A	N
P	X	I	P	R	P	R	D	I	R	L	E	O	L	N
M	T	O	I	O	A	U	N	E	B	A	L	L	P	E
A	R	C	L	I	C	T	O	Y	S	R	S	O	E	R
R	A	E	L	T	S	E	N	A	L	N	I	C	R	S

©2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/7

Arcade, Ball, Bats, Bull's-eye, Captive, Chute, Coils, Coins, Color, Degrees, Digital, Drain, Duct, Electric, Electromagnets, Extra, Force, Game, Gate, Glass, Handle, Holes, Inlanes, Lights, Magic Post, Outlanes, Points, Pole, Rail, Ramps, Replays, Rollovers, Shields, Shoot, Sounds, Spinners, Spot, Spring, Stand-up, Stationary, Strikes, Targets, Toys, Wired

Last Thursday's Answer: Attractive

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel. 233-7777.

(2) Bookkeeper, (8) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist. Minimum Salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

Backhoe for Rent
For inquiries, please call
285-0478
- Security Services
- General Help Supply Services
- Heavy Equipment Rental
- Auto & Heavy Equipment Repair Shop

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Tour Guide (1)
Minimum of three years work experience as a Tour Guide. Swimming skill with tour guidance knowledge for the customers in English, Chinese, and Japanese.

Please mail resume no later than March 19, 2016 to PMB 525, Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950 or email it to gaiasaipan@gmail.com
For more information, please call: 484-0305
GAIA, LLC.

Vacancy Announcement

(2) Maintenance - Atleast high school graduate. A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both witten and oral form.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services, Inc.
Tel. # 235-7011

Job Vacancy Announcement

Rong Hua Corporation dba: O2 Spa
Shift Manager
3 years' experience - Salary $6.05/hr
Speaking Japanese, Chinese, and English preferred.

Interested applicants may call 233-4825, 285-8018 or mail resume to PMB 698 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Trash Collector - At least High School graduate with valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Smoke House Grill
5-Kitchen Staff

Micronesian Glass Int'l
4-Glass Installer & Fabricator

MGI Manpower Group Int'l
20 – Commercial Cleaner

Email resume to cmi.gencon@gmail.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

MUSICIAN

With five (5) years minimum experience as a professional musician. Must have the ability to sing, harmonize and play musical instruments, preferably keyboards, as soloists or as a member of the band. Be able to perform several musical styles/music genre to various customers such as but not limited to Japanese, Korean & Chinese.
An extensive experience in entertaining live audiences in Hotel lobbies, concert halls, and Casino is an advantage.
Competent in the use of musical sequencer, synthesizers and PA systems.
Experience as sound technician is an advantage.

Email resume to
PIAO INVESTMENT CORPORATION
(mapagahes@gmail.com)

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School

Is requesting applicants for:

(2) Child Development Center/ Pre-School Teachers

- Minimum Two years experience working with young children in a school setting
- Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree
- CPR / First Aid Certified
- Knowledge of child development and curriculum
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures

Send resumes to:
Saipan SDA School Principal
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950

Sino Great Wall International Engineering Co., LLC
is a global interior and exterior decoration engineering company.

Positions:
Carpenter
Welder
Bricklayer
Painter
Electrician
Plumber

Requirements:
- All positions are required at least three (3) years experience in hotel/ casino construction industries.
- At least three (3) years professional experience in related fields.
- high School graduate preferred but not imperative.

Please submit resume to email:
sinogreatwallcnmi@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
GPPC, INC.

(01) Architectural Drafter Tech.
Rate: $9.32/hr. or $2,100.00/month or commensurate to experience and qualification.

College graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan, CNMI. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required.
GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Closing date will be on March 14, 2016.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work- related experience in a financing or commercial/credit loan business. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO and Loan Management Information Systems, MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Finance Company, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Call 235-NEWS

a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
SUDOKU
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011
PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
For opportunities contact us at
235-6397

WHATZIT Solution: Lost in the mail

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

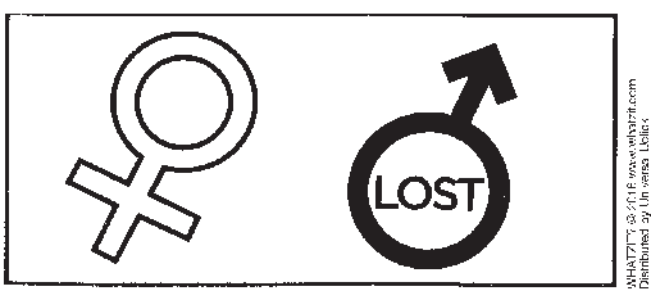
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

George's late free throws lift Pacers past Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Paul George thinks the Indiana Pacers should be a top-four team in the Eastern Conference.

A loss to the 10th-place Washington Wizards would have been a step in the wrong direction.

George scored 38 points, including two free throws with 3 seconds left to lift the Pacers to a 100-99 victory over the Wizards on Saturday night.

"He was red-hot, carried the load (early)," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said. "And then he continued into the second half, and then down at clutch time, just made big basket after big basket."

George, coming off a 35-point effort on Friday night, shot 13 of 22 from the field and converted all eight of his free throws. He scored 16 points in the first quarter and 11 in the fourth.

Nene hit 1 of 2 free throws to put Washington ahead with 11 seconds left.

Indiana inbounded and George, rather than shoot a jumper, drove the baseline and was fouled by Alan Anderson.

"I definitely got hit," George said. "That was the only thing I was doing is trying to put pressure on the refs, trying to make them make a call."

John Wall missed a contested jumper at the buzzer.

The Pacers shot 19 for 20 on free throws while Washington managed just 15 of 24.

Wall had 25 points and 12 assists for Washington, which began play 1 1/2 games behind seventh-place Indiana.

"We could be positioned a lot better than where we are," George said. "Of the eight playoff teams ... I don't think we should be below the four.

Indiana took the season series 2-1 and holds the tiebreaker should the teams finish tied in the standings.

"This was important, no question," Wizards coach Randy Wittman said. "Now we've got to go out and make it up somewhere."

AP

Indiana Pacers forward Paul George, left, works to retain possession as Washington Wizards guard Garrett Temple reaches for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 5, 2016, in Washington. The Pacers won, 100-99.

Cavaliers 120, Celtics 103

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 20 of his 28 points in the second half, and Cleveland had seven other players in double figures as the Cavaliers shook off a slow start for a 120-103 win over the Boston Celtics on Saturday night.

The Cavs were down 18 points in the first quarter but regrouped and stopped Boston's winning streak at five games.

Kyrie Irving added 21 points and Iman Shumpert busted out of a shooting slump to add 12 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for Cleveland, which moved 2 1/2 games ahead of Toronto for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

James also passed Tim Duncan for 14th place on the NBA's career scoring list. He added 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Isaiah Thomas led the Celtics with 27 points and Jared Sullinger had 17 with 13 rebounds.

Hawks 107, Clippers 97

In Los Angeles, Jeff Teague scored 22 points and Paul Millsap had 20 points and a season-high 18 rebounds to lead Atlanta.

Kent Bazemore added 17 points for the Hawks, who were back at Staples Center one night after routing the Lakers 106-77. They climbed 1 1/2 games behind idle Miami in the in the race for the Southeast Division lead.

All five starters scored in double figures for the Clippers, including DeAndre Jordan and Chris Paul with 17 each. Jordan also had 11 rebounds and Paul 11 assists.

Bazemore converted a steal into a fast-break layup and a three-point play, giving Atlanta a 62-60 lead with 7 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter after the Hawks trailed by 17 points. They sealed the victory with a 19-5 run that turned a six-point deficit into a 101-93 lead with 3:18 to play.

Timberwolves 132, Nets 118

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points, seven assists and six rebounds and Minnesota shot a franchise-record 68.4 percent to beat Brooklyn.

Andrew Wiggins had 26 points and six assists, Zach LaVine scored 21 points and Ricky Rubio had 16 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves. The Wolves had a season-high 36 assists to bounce back from an ugly loss in Milwaukee on Friday night.

Markel Brown scored 23 points and Thomas Robinson added 18 points and 17 rebounds for the Nets. Brooklyn played without starters Brook Lopez and Thaddeus Young, who both sat out to rest.

Minnesota's previous franchise record was 67.1 set against the Lakers in 2014.

Jazz 106, Pelicans 94

In New Orleans, Derrick Favors had 28 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks, and Utah beat New Orleans to snap a five-game losing streak.

Gordon Hayward scored 24 points for Utah, which entered the night's action two games behind Houston for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Rudy Gobert grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked two shots for the Jazz, which broke open a 70-all tie with a 14-0 run to close the third quarter.

New Orleans lost its fourth straight game and might be without guard Eric Gordon for the rest of the season after he again fractured his right ring finger -- just eight days after returning from the same injury.

Anthony Davis had 29 points and 11 rebounds for the Pelicans, but missed 20 of 31 shots.

Spurs 104, Kings 94

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Manu Ginobili added 22 points in his return from a gruesome injury, helping short-handed San Antonio improve to 30-0 at home.

The Spurs won their eighth straight and extended their franchise record start to 53-9 despite the absence of starters LaMarcus Aldridge, Tim Duncan and Danny Green.

Manu Ginobili had 22 points in his return from a 12-game absence, showing no physical or psychological effects from testicle surgery on Feb. 5. The dynamic Argentine's return was a needed boost with Duncan and Green sitting out to rest and Aldridge out due to a migraine headache.

DeMarcus Cousins scored 31 points to lead Sacramento.

Knicks 102, Pistons 81

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and New York got a rare win even without the injured Kristaps Porzingis.

Robin Lopez added 21 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who ended a three-game losing streak and won for just the fourth time in 20 games. A night after a fourth-quarter collapse in Boston, the Knicks blew open the game with a 21-4 run after the game got close in the fourth.

Arron Afflalo made all seven shots in the first half and finished with 20 points.

Bulls 108, Rockets 100

In Chicago, Pau Gasol finished with 28 points and 17 rebounds, Jimmy Butler scored 24 points in his return from a strained left knee, and Chicago snapped a four-game losing streak.

Gasol hit four free throws after Patrick Beverley nailed a 3-pointer to cut it to 104-100 with 34.8 seconds remaining. And Chicago avoided matching its longest skid even though James Harden scored 36 for Houston. The Bulls also moved a half-game ahead of Detroit for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Gasol delivered his 35th double-double and Butler added 11 rebounds after missing the previous 11 games.

Vikings agree to terms with Sendejo

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings kept two of their players from reaching free agency by agreeing to deals with safety Andrew Sendejo and defensive tackle Kenrick Ellis on Saturday.

Sendejo agreed to a four-year contract, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the move had not been officially announced.

Sendejo could have tested the free-agent waters beginning on Wednesday, but instead elected to return for a sixth season in purple. Sendejo started 14 games for the Vikings last year after beating out Robert Blanton for the starting job opposite Harrison Smith. He had 74 tackles and one interception.

Coach Mike Zimmer said at the NFL Combine that the Vikings were looking for another playmaker to allow the standout Smith some more freedom and acknowledged he wasn't sure if that player was on the roster. It's not immediately clear if Sendejo's deal, which was first reported by Fox Sports, will keep the Vikings from looking for another safety or if they plan to give the job to Sendejo.

Ellis got a one-year deal, agent Drew Smith said. Ellis joined the Vikings last October after being let go by the New York Giants and played in nine games for Minnesota. He was a third-round draft pick by the New York Jets in 2011.

In Miami, defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh's $114 million, six-year contract has been restructured by the Miami Dolphins to create salary cap space.

Linebacker Koa Misi's contract was also restructured, the team said Saturday. Receiver Greg Jennings was released, clearing $4 million in cap space.

Details of the restructured deals weren't revealed. The Suh move won't reduce the overall value of his contract, but could create an additional $18 million under the cap.

Jennings had 19 receptions for 208 yards and one touchdown— the 64th of his career—in his only season with Miami last year.

Miami tendered six exclusive rights free agents—safeties Michael Thomas and Shamiel Gary, receiver Matt Hazel, tackle Ulrick John, cornerback Tyler Patmon and tight end Jake Stoneburner.

In Kansas, A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press the Kansas City Chiefs voided the contract of veteran linebacker Tamba Hali, who took a pay cut with a reworked deal to remain with the team last season.

McIlroy in control at Cadillac Championship

AP
Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, hits from a bunker on the first hole during the third round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Saturday, March 5, 2016, in Doral, Fla.

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Rory McIlroy came into the Cadillac Championship insisting that everything about his game is solid right now, and that his ability to contend rested solely on his mental game.

His mind must be right, because he played a mistake-free third round at Doral on Saturday.

McIlroy made four birdies and no bogeys in the third round on the Blue Monster, his 4-under 68 getting him to 12 under for the week and three shots ahead of Adam Scott and defending champion Dustin Johnson with 18 holes left in the first World Golf Championships event of the season.

"I just played a really solid round of golf," McIlroy said.

If he wins Sunday, McIlroy would go over $30 million in career PGA Tour earnings, and could get handed the trophy by the course owner himself. Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump said he will attend Sunday's final round, though it's unclear how visible he will be or how much of the day he'll spend at Doral.

"I think it's Rory's to lose, really," said Danny Willett, who shot 72 and is in a group five shots off the pace. "We're going to have to go out there and play clever and play aggressive when we can, and hopefully we can knock a few birdies off and post a good number."

McIlroy's made nine birdies and nine bogeys or worse in two rounds last week at The Honda Classic, which is why his preparation for Doral could start two days early with a missed cut there.

At Doral, he hasn't been flawless, but close enough. McIlroy's last bogey was on the second hole in his second round.

In 34 holes since, it's been 11 birdies and 23 pars, fueling his climb atop the leaderboard. He took the lead with a birdie at the par-4 fifth, one of only eight made on that hole Saturday. And he escaped brushes with the sand on each of his last two holes, keeping his mistake-free streak intact.

"I've seen Rory play some great golf," Scott said. "I think he's going to be very satisfied with that round. Looked like he was under total control."

McIlroy's tee ball at the par-4 17th found a bunker - with the wind picking up a bit—so he simply knocked his second onto the green and two-putted from 45 feet. And his approach from the middle of the fairway on 18 landed in a greenside bunker, but he knocked in a testy 6-footer for par to cap the round.

"My first bogey-free round of the year," McIlroy said. "To do it in a round like this is very pleasing."

Johnson gave himself a chance to end his day with a great par, then missed a 4-footer. After spraying his tee shot way right, Johnson punched out and then knocked a wedge close. But he missed the par try and fell to 9 under for the tournament, 1 under for the round.

Johnson rallied from five shots back in the final round to win last year at Doral. This time, his deficit is only three.

"Anything's possible," Johnson said. "With this golf course, there's trouble on just about every hole, so I just need to go out and keep playing like I'm playing. I feel like I'm playing really well. Today I missed a couple short putts and didn't really hole any putts and still shot 1 under on a tough day. So I'm pleased with that."

Willett, Bubba Watson (71) and Phil Mickelson (70) are tied for fourth, five shots off the lead. World No. 1 Jordan Spieth struggled again, his round of 73 leaving him at 2 under for the week and tied for 17th place.

Spieth played with Justin Thomas, who followed up a 66 on Friday with a 78 on Saturday.

"A rough day for us both," Thomas said.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump has nothing listed on his official schedule of presidential campaign events on Sunday, so he's going to watch the final round of the Cadillac Championship.

After all, it's on his course.

Trump National Doral is the site of the event, and his name is everywhere -- on the cocktail napkins, on the garbage cans, even in giant gold letters on the side of the main entrance to the facility. The caps with his "Make America Great Again" slogan are on sale in the gift shop for $30, or $2 less than the ones with his golf course's logo. There's even a Trump Lounge, not far from the 18th green.

All that's been missing this week is The Donald himself. That changes Sunday.

"I will be at the Cadillac World Golf Championship (at)TrumpDoral in Miami tomorrow!" Trump tweeted Saturday afternoon.

His arrival won't be a surprise. All that remains to be seen is how he arrives—there's a helipad on the course, and coming in by helicopter has been his preferred method in recent years—and how visible he is.

Trump presented the trophy to Dustin Johnson after his win at Doral last year.

"We've had presidents, ex-presidents show up and cheer us on at different events, so that's pretty neat and unique," Bubba Watson said a few days ago, when asked for his thoughts about a presidential candidate popping in on the tournament. "But for it to be in the middle of a race, yeah, it will be different."

The Republican frontrunner had stops in Wichita, Kansas; Orlando, Florida; and West Palm Beach, Florida, on his Saturday schedule. He's expected to be in North Carolina and Mississippi on Monday, but Sunday apparently will be all about golf.

The event itself faces a most uncertain future.

Cadillac is in the final year of its title sponsorship and a renewal seems most unlikely, for reasons unrelated to Trump's candidacy.

Atlanta Braves rotation a work in progress

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP)—In the tunnel leading to the dugout at the Atlanta Braves spring training stadium, there's a picture of John Smoltz being inducted into the Hall of Fame, right above a photo showing Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine holding their Cooperstown plaques.

My, how times have changed.

The Braves head into another rebuilding season with a rotation that figures to be a work in progress well beyond opening day, with manager Fredi Gonzalez conceding it might be the All-Star break before things sort themselves out.

For now, Julio Teheran is the only sure thing, but even the 25-year-old former All-Star is coming off his worst full season in the majors. Bud Norris, who went 3-11 with a 6.72 ERA a year ago, figures to be the No. 2 starter, and the only other pitcher who seems locked into a spot is 23-year-old Matt Wisler, coming off a promising rookie season.

Beyond that, it's anybody's guess.

The Braves will give a long look to a plethora of young pitchers, many of them acquired in trades over the past year as part of a massive roster overhaul that isn't likely pay dividends for at least another season or two.

"Sometimes that wave is out by the Marshall Islands," Gonzalez quipped. "But it's coming."

This is all rather jarring because starting pitching was the cornerstone of Atlanta's unprecedented streak of 14 straight division titles. In some ways, the Braves are hoping to pull off a repeat of the late 1980s, when they drafted Glavine and acquired Smoltz in a trade, setting the stage for a worst-to-first turnaround in 1991. They signed Maddux two years later, giving the Braves a trio of Hall of Famers-to-be who would anchor their rotation for the better part of the decade.

No one on the current roster should be expected to fill those massively large spikes, but Gonzalez is hopeful that youngsters such as Wisler, Mike Foltynewicz, Manny Banuelos, Aaron Blair, Sean Newcomb, Williams Perez and Lucas Sims will eventually form the cornerstone of another stellar rotation.

"At least we have some candidates," the manager said. "A lot of stuff has got to go right. They've got to get better and that kind of stuff. But I like the arms, I really do."

In the meantime, veteran pitchers such as Norris, Kyle Kendrick and Jhoulys Chacin—all of them coming off miserable seasons—may have to fill in the gaps until the youngsters are ready.

"This team is very young," said Norris, who threw two perfect innings in Saturday's spring training loss to Pittsburgh. "I just want to do my part, be that veteran presence in the rotation."

Norris was a 15-game winner for Baltimore in 2014, but he followed up with the worst season of his career. He came down with bronchitis, lost 20 pounds in four days and never recovered. Released by the Orioles in early August, he finished out the season with San Diego and signed a bargain-basement deal with the Braves.

Only 31, there's still time to get things back on track.

"I had a tough one last year," Norris said. "I'm here to prove I'm the same guy I was the six years before that."

Kendrick also has plenty of prove.

He had double-figure wins in six of eight seasons with the Philadelphia Phillies but struggled through a miserable year after signing with the Colorado Rockies, going 7-13 with a 6.32 ERA in the thin air of Coors Field.

Now he's back in the NL East, getting a chance to pitch in the much more favorable pitching conditions of Turner Field.

"I'm somewhere where I want to be," he said, "and I'm excited about it."

Foltynewicz is mounting a comeback of his own. One of the hardest throwers in the organization, the 24-year-old right-hander developed blood clots in his shoulder,

Diaz beats McGregor, Tate takes title from Holm at UFC 196

LAS VEGAS (AP)—With a pair of rear naked chokes that finished two celebrated champions, Nate Diaz and Miesha Tate both accomplished the improbable in a pair of sport-shaking victories at UFC 196.

Diaz forced Conor McGregor to tap out with 48 seconds left in the second round Saturday night, ending the Irish superstar's 15-fight winning streak in a non-title bout.

Tate won the UFC bantamweight title at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, locking Holly Holm in a choke that rendered the champ apparently unconscious with 90 seconds left in the fifth round.

The dual upsets stunned a sellout crowd and one of the biggest pay-per-view audiences in the history of mixed martial arts.

They also threw two potential wrenches into the UFC's plans for the upcoming year: McGregor was widely expected to fight in the main event at UFC 200 in July, while Holm's next fight was supposed to be her rematch with Ronda Rousey, whose title reign ended with Holm's knockout win in November.

Diaz and Tate had plans of their own.

"After 16 years in this business, the one thing you don't ever do is think you know what's going to happen," thrilled UFC President Dana White said. "Because you don't."

Diaz (20-10) was battered and bloodied for the first 1 1/2 rounds by McGregor (19-3), the UFC 145-pound featherweight champ and pay-per-view star fighting at 170 pounds on short notice.

Diaz, who took the fight less than two weeks ago, abruptly changed the bout with an electric series of punches that wobbled the previously unshakable McGregor. When McGregor tried a takedown, Diaz quickly forced him to tap out on the ground.

AP
Conor McGregor, left, trades punches with Nate Diaz during their UFC 196 welterweight mixed martial arts match, Saturday, March 5, 2016, in Las Vegas.

"I knew I was the superior boxer, with superior kickboxing, with superior jiu-jitsu," said Diaz, who had lost five of his previous 10 fights. "Nothing surprised me except for that I got hit at all. I think with a full camp, I would have been flawless."

Earlier, Tate (18-5) became the third 135-pound champion in UFC history by beating Holm (10-1), the woman who knocked out Rousey in November. Holm appeared to be out cold when Tate finally released her from the choke to celebrate.

"Not many people wouldn't tap out," Tate said. "She went out like a champion. ... She's tougher than nails. She really pulled the most out of me and made me a better fighter tonight."

The main event was the greatest moment in the career of Diaz, a pugnacious veteran from a notorious fighting family in Stockton, California. Diaz had lost three of his past five fights, but his size and power abruptly finished McGregor, who had boasted of his plans to hold championships in multiple weight classes.

The loss was McGregor's first since November 2010, and it put a blemish on the loquacious Irish face of the UFC and the best-paid fighter in this rapidly growing sport.

McGregor was somber but reflective at the post-fight news conference, which often isn't attended by losing fighters. He thinks his next bout will be a featherweight title defense, but he vowed to return to higher weight classes.

"I will never shy away from defeat," McGregor said. "This is part of the game. I had many chances to not do this and sit and wait, but I went in. I took the fight and it didn't pay off. This is the fight business. It's another day. I will come back."

McGregor agreed to fight Diaz at the welterweight limit when 155-pound lightweight champion Rafael Dos Anjos dropped out of his matchup with McGregor due to a foot injury. McGregor set a new UFC record with his $1 million disclosed purse for this fight, and he predicted a comfortable win over Diaz, comparing the veteran to a gazelle about to be eaten by a lion.

Instead, McGregor got bit.

"(McGregor) punches hard," Diaz said. "He's a hard-hitting little guy, but nothing I never felt before."

The penultimate fight at UFC 196 was a thrilling clash of styles, and Tate fought until the waning minutes before finally using her superior ground game to outstanding effect.

"I feel like we had a great game plan," Tate said. "I had to be patient. She's very dangerous. She's capable of catching anyone at any moment. She's a very calculated fighter."

For 4 1/2 rounds, Holm appeared to be winning her first fight since she dethroned Rousey with a stunning head-kick knockout. Although Tate controlled the second round on the ground and got close to a finish, Holm picked apart Tate with punches for the other three rounds.

Everything changed when Tate finally landed a desperate takedown attempt and got Holm's back with 2 minutes left.

Holm fought desperately to get out, but the veteran wrestler sunk in a choke that she didn't let go until she was the champion.

"It wasn't the right move to shake her off my back," Holm said. "It was stupid, and I should have fought it off more. When you're up against a wrestler like that, of course that threat is there for a takedown, and you have to recognize it."

Tate was overwhelmed after finally reaching her longtime goal. She hasn't lost a fight since 2013 but realized this might be her last chance to fight for the belt.

"My mentality is, it doesn't matter how many times you get knocked down in a fight," Tate said. "It's how many times you get back up. I think that's something a champion does."

Mieko

From Page 28

Koreans entered in the men's pro nearly collapsed as they reached the finish line. Gyu Seo Choi stopped running before entering the finish line loop, allowing compatriot and Tagaman returnee Kaon Cho to sprint his way to a second place finish in the men's division. Cho completed the race in 4:50:47, nearly 10 minutes behind top overall finisher Jae Yun Won (4:41:35), also of Korea. Choi clocked in at 4:50:51, while Hwa Mok Jang rounded out the Top 4 with his 5:02:02. Jang fell to the round after cutting the tape and was later treated for heat stroke.

Bucher did not collapse at the finish line, but admitted the blistering heat was too much.

"I loved the race till the run, where I bombed. I raced the last four weekends, including traveling. My body just couldn't handle it, specially the heat," said Bucher, who recorded 2:08:08 in the run leg.

LEE

From Page 28

prime, just keep on trying and doing your best," said Kabiriel, who got last year's award for suiting up for the CNMI national canoe team that participated in the Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.

Meanwhile, other top athlete awardees for 2015 were swimming's Victoria Chentsova and athletics Donavin Ada. Both were off-island and had their family members receiving the awards.

Chentsova was the 2015 Female Athlete of the Year awardee, earning the recognition for the first time for her notable showings in the 2015 Pacific Games in PNG and in the 16th FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia.'

The Saipan Swim Club member set both CNMI national and 17 to 18 age group records in the 400m freestyle (4:44.15) and 800m freestyle (9:48.87) during the world championship. In the Pacific Games, she posted a couple of personal best times and made it to the finals of the 200m freestyle race. The Saipan International School graduate is now in Massachusetts, studying at Williams College.

Ada, on the other hand, is now based in Colorado, and failed to receive his TSL Foundation/NMSA Male Student Athlete of the Year award. The former Marianas High School student won recognition after bringing home a bronze medal from Cairns, Australia. He finished third in the javelin throw in the Oceania Area Championships hosted by the Land Down Under. He also participated in the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships and prevailed in the long jump and javelin and discuss throws.

Besides the top athletes for 2015, Northern Marianas Sports Association also honored the Sports Administrator of the Year and the newest members of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame. Details of the other awardees will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday issue.

FINALE

From Page 27

struggle offensively in the second frame before mounting a comeback in the third to bring the deficit down to one, 31-32. Evangelista led the uprising, as he sizzled for 11 points, while Dustin Salilin chipped in 5 points and Ong and Richardson tallied 2 and 3, respectively.

Agape, on the other hand, was held to 4 points off Tychicus Xu's goal and Chen's pair of charities, to cling to a one-point cushion, heading to the final canto.

It was a close game since then with Salilin, Ong, and Richardson delivering the baskets for Mt. Carmel to hand Agape its lone loss this season. Agape, which played without two of its key players (Dawei Cai and Frederic Guintu) was limited to two field goals in the fourth period with fatigue catching up on Chen. Chen had only one basket and went 1-for-6 from the foul line. Xu logged the other field goal for Agape.

MCS 40—Evangelista 17, Salilin 9, Ong 7, Richardson 7.

Agape 38— Chen 19, Zhang 10, T. Xu 6, Xiong 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-6, 28-10, 32-31, 40-38.

KNIGHTS

From Page 27

Travilla then went for an undergoal stab to equalize, but missed. However, she got the offensive rebound and this time her seconds shot went in to tie the match anew, 21-all, 14 seconds left on the clock. Both teams had chances to win the game in regulation, but muffed the opportunity with Li faltering on a point-blanked shot and Katelyn Rabana overshooting her mark when she pulled up for a short jumper.

In overtime, Alcantara ended her long silence after making her first two shots, as she split her free throws to give Mt. Carmel a shaky 22-21 advantage. Mt. Carmel clung to the slim lead as both teams played helter-skelter basketball in the next three minutes and change of the extension period. A split from Li then forced another deadlock, which Buenaventura later broke when she pulled up for a prayer and got an answer with the lucky bounce.

MCS 24—Alcantara 8, Buenventura 6, Travilla 4, Bucalig 2, Sato 2, Rabana 2.

SIS 22—Li 14, Sekiguchi 4, Hartig 2, Chan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-4, 7-8, 15-14, 21-21, 24-22 (OT)

SIDEBAR

Back-to-back for Lady Knights

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lady Knights successfully defended their title after outlasting Saipan International School in overtime, 24-22, during the girls middle school division finals last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Riley Anne Buenaventura canned the go-ahead basket in the closing seconds of the extension to give Mt. Carmel its second straight division championship. The Lady Knights topped the 2014-2015 season after beating Grace Christian Academy in the finals, 28-12.

While Mt. Carmel eased past the Lady Eagles last year, this season's finale was a different story, as it took a Hail Mary from Buenaventura to propel Mt. Carmel past SIS. Buenaventura pulled the trigger near where Matthew Richarson hit the game-winning shot in the boys match. The ball then bounced off the back iron of the rim before rolling back to the basket.

The Geckos sued for time after Buenaventura's crucial field goal and were left with 7 seconds to go for a game-tying shot or a triple to win the match outright. SIS went for the 2-pointer with Sally Li driving to the center, stopping at the free throw line, and popping for a jumper, which was too strong and just hit the board. There was a battle for the rebound after Li's miss and time expired with neither team having possession, allowing the Lady Knights to escape with the close victory.

The girls' finale was anybody's ballgame, as momentum of the match shifted from one team to another.

Mt. Carmel took a 6-0 advantage off Princess Alcantara's back-to-back banked triple and closed the first six minutes of the title match with a 6-4 lead. Rei Sekiguchi and Hannah Chan scored 2 points apiece for SIS in the opening canto.

The Lady Knights then kept the upper hand in the majority of the second canto despite adding only a point to its tally off Kaia Travilla's split charity before the Lady Geckos made the move in the closing minute to steal the upper hand, 8-7. Li and Shea Hartig recorded the 4 points for SIS in the second frame.

Li knocked in two more baskets early in the third canto to hand SIS its biggest lead, 12-7. However, the Lady Knights countered with an 8-2 windup behind Buenaventura's 4 points and 2 apiece from Travilla and Maaya Sato to regain the lead, 15-14, entering the final canto.

Mt. Carmel stretched the upper had to as much as 5, 19-14, but SIS also fought back with Li anchoring the recovery and scoring 5 straight markers to force a standoff, 19-19. Li made it 7 points in a row and gave the lead back to SIS, 21-19, down to 30 seconds in regulation.

See KNIGHTS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Maaya Sato, center is doubled team by Saipan International School's Rei Sekiguchi, left, and Hannah Chan, during the second quarter of their title game in the girls middle school division of the COPSSA caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mt. Carmel rallies past Agape in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's indeed Knights time.

Mt. Carmel School completed a sweep in the middle school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League as its boys squad pulled off a thrilling 40-38 title win against Agape Christian School last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Earlier in the girls division, the Lady Knights eked out a 24-22 overtime victory in their championship match versus Saipan International School (see separate story).

Matthew Richardson made the dagger for Mt. Carmel in the boys' finale, bringing the school's supporters up on their feet as the squad managed to complete a come-from-behind win after being down by as much 18 in the first half.

The Knights fought back with their supporters, led by MCS principal Galvin De Leon Guerrero, rallying behind them. Deleon Guerrero and the throng of Mt. Carmel fans kept chanting "It's Knights time" and coach Francis San Nicolas' players responded in the second half with a nerve wracking victory, thanks to Richardson and Matthew Ong's crucial play.

Ong did the inbound underneath the basket with 9 seconds remaining on the clock. Richardson then slid away from Agape players lining up for defense, received Ong's pass, and found himself open for an 8-footer on the left shaded lane where players stand for the rebound play during a free throw shooting.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Matthew Ong stretches for a layup against Agape Christian School's Tychicus Xu during the first quarter of their title game in the boys middle school division of the COPSSA caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After Richardson's basket, Haoyu Chen was forced to rush things as the clock was down to 5 seconds and Agape ran out of timeout, but his drive was too strong and just hit the board. Lue Xiong went for the offensive board, but the final buzzer sounded even before he could pull up for a putback.

Agape absorbed the sorry loss despite posting the biggest lead in the match at halftime, 28-10. Chen scored 13 points, while Tianrui Zhang added 10 in the first half to help the Torchbearers keep the double-digit lead.

Agape also took a twin-digit spread at the end of the first quarter, 19-6, after scoring 17 answered points in the opening canto, which Mt. Carmel started with a 4-0 advantage. Aven Evangelista knocked in the first 4 markers for the Knights, while Ong nailed the 2 other points.

Mt. Carmel continued to

See FINALE on Page 26

Boom makes noise in Ridin'Darrty win

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty rode on Boom Cruz's unbeaten run to complete an 11-6 win over the 6JMS Predators in last week's action in the A division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association-Bud Light Winter/Spring season.

Cruz was undefeated in all five matches he played in. He began with a victory in the Singles 501 against Gigi Gatmaitan then teamed up with Daryl Brennan in one of the two Partners Crazy Cricket.

Cruz did not slow down and scored wins in the Singles Half It against Ronald Doria. He then teamed up with June Nunez in besting Jemar Merigmen and Jun Agbuya. Cruz made it two in a row against Gatmaitan for his fifth win in the Singles Regular Cricket.

The win kept the Ridin'Darrty on top of the standings in the nine-team field with a 128-76 record against the 124-80 card of the Jokers Shockers, a 9-8 winner over 6JMS Sakude (91-113). The Doro's Snipers (110-111) pulled off a 10-7 victory against the Doro's Hunters (73-131).

The Mafia (125-96), Predators (124-97), 6JMS 101 Proofers (101-103), and Oleai No Fear (76-145) complete the standings in the A division.

Tuesday B

■ Shockers 13, G-Side Shooters 2
■ Hot Points 11, Dabarkads 4
■ Warriors 9, Northern Lights 6
■ Spartans 9, Chamberos 6

Masters

■ Dart Daddies 12, Darteros 5
■ Pythons 9, Nakayoshi 8

C Division

■ Spartans 13, DNA Jump-It 2
■ Puntan I Langit 11, C Busters 4
■ Managaha Boys 9, Mixed Nuts 6
■ Just Dart It 8, Blue Koi Tavern 7

Fanihi B

■ Mafia 12, Parakeyu 3
■ Life After Darts 9, Dart Vader 6
■ Team Fearless 9, Ta-Chagi Talo 6
Dragons 8, Preba Darts 7

Flame Tree B

■ Ridin'Darrty 12, Em-Tech's 3
■ Serial Killaz 12, One Shot 3
■ Latte Sparts 11, Nagupu 4
■ Kyodai 9, No Fear 6

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Jokers Puntan I Langit celebrate their win over the Doro's C-Busters in the C Division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association-Bud Light Winter/Spring season.

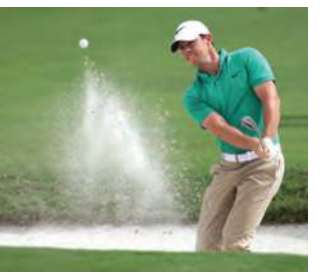
George's late free throws lift Pacers past Wizards

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

McIlroy in control at Cadillac Championship

PAGE 25



Mieko repeats as Tagaman champ

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey is about to cut the tape and compete the 2016 Tagaman Triathlon held last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Saipan triathlete Mieko Carey survived the tough challenges in last Saturday's 2016 Tagaman Triathlon to clinch her second straight women's title in the Half Ironman course.

Saipan Sportsfest TAGAMAN SAIPAN

Carey completed the 1.9-kilometer swim leg, 90K bike race, and 21.1 run in 4:59:56 to beat four other pros entered in her division. The 37-year-old triathlete missed breaking her 2015 time (4:48.15), but still she was the only female pro to make it to the finish line under the five-hour mark. South Korea's Reum Jo timed in at 5:21:37 to place second and was followed by Australia's Belinda Hadden (5:24:04), Switzerland's Renata Bucher (5:34:03), and another South Korean bet Ha Yeon Lee (5:35:43).

Though only four stood on her way enroute to defending her women's tiara, Carey admitted last Saturday's event was one of the toughest she did because of the different hurdles she faced in the race.

First was the presence of two young South Koreans, who were 1-2 out of the water (women's field). Jo completed the two-lap swim in the waters off Pacific Islands Club in 25:50, while Lee posted 25:53. Mieko clocked in at 29:43, while Hadden and Bucher submitted 30:16 and 30:18, respectively.

Next up for Mieko was the lung-busting bike leg up north where bikers were greeted by a strong head wind.

"It was very difficult, especially in Marpi and I am biking alone, getting hit by the strong wind," said Carey, who this time was the fastest women in the bike leg at 2:42:21.

She had less than two-minute lead against Jo, who lost precious time when she took the wrong turn along the course after going up the Bird Island Lookout. Jo timed in at 3:01:15 in the bike leg, while Hadden and Bucher had faster times of 2:59:47 and 2:55:37, respectively. Lee was the last women's pro in the bike leg after logging 3:05:34.

Carey continued to pull away as she headed south to PIC for the half marathon, but again the strong head wind coupled with the searing heat made it more difficult to complete the race

"Heading back to AMP via Beach Road was very tough. It was so hot so I just pace myself. I know I had a good lead, but I tried not to focus on it and instead just kept going and hydrated myself," said Carey, who started celebrating even before she entered the finish line loop as she was way ahead of her competitors.

"I love doing Tagaman and it makes me really happy to win the race and see my friends on Saipan waiting for me at the finish line," said Carey, who registered 1:49:52 in the run leg—the fastest in her field.

While Carey survived the scorching heat, two South

See MIEKO on Page 26

Lee, Kabiriel lead NMSA top awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tennis' Carol Lee and canoe's Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel reaped the fruit of their labor last year as they brought home the Female Student and Male Athlete of the Year awards during the 2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ATHLETES of the YEAR

Lee took the award that was sponsored by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the second time (her first was in 2013), while Kabiriel got his third.

"It's a big honor to win the TSL Foundation/NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Year award again. The award is the product of all the hard work I put in during my training sessions and the tournaments I competed in 2015," the 14-year-old Lee said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Lee joined and dominated both local and regional tournaments in 2015. She was ranked No. 1 in the entire Pacific after ruling the same age group contest in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. She also competed in several Junior ITF Circuit tournaments where she earned 66.25 combined ranking points to land at the No. 747 in the world rankings—the highest ranking by any Pacific junior player.

"The award will inspire me to continue improving my skills so I can represent the CNMI in more international tournaments," the Saipan Community School student said.

Kabiriel also said his third award is an inspiration to him, as he tries to stay active in sports despite considering himself past his prime.

"When I decided to quit competitive running and doing triathlon, I chose to do canoe racing just to stay in shape. I did not even think I will win this award again," said Kabiriel, whose first two Male Athlete of the Year trophies came in the late 90s and early 2000s.

"Right now, I am also involved in standup paddling. I will always find a sport that I can do to stay active and fit. I hope I can encourage others to do to the same. Even if you consider yourself past your

See LEE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, poses with her 2015 TSL Foundation/NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Year award at the conclusion of the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel shows his 2015 NMSA Male Athlete of the Year trophy during the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.